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1874.







THE
VOCABULARY
OF
EAST ANGLIA;

AN ATTEMPT TO RECORD
THE VULGAR TONGUE OF THE TWIN SISTER COUNTIES,
NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK,

AS IT EXISTED
In the last Twenty Years of the Eighteenth Century,
AND STILL EXISTS;

WITH PROOF OF ITS ANTIQUITY FROM ETYMOLOGY AND AUTHORITY.

Antiquam exquirite matrem.—VIRGIL.

BY THE LATE REV. ROBERT FORBY,
RECTOR OF FINCHAM, NORFOLK.

IN TWO VOLUMES.
VOL. II.

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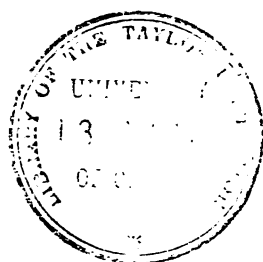
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1830.



THE
VOCABULARY
OF
EAST ANGLIA.

VOL. II.

G.

GAG, *v.*

1. To nauseate ; to reject with loathing, as if the throat were closed against the admission of what is offered.
2. To make an unsuccessful effort to vomit.

GAGGER, *s.* a nonconformist. Certainly an *old* Puritan was originally meant.

GAGE, *s.* a bowl or tub to receive the cream as it is successively skimmed off. No doubt it has its name from the use made of it, to judge when a sufficient quantity has been collected to be churned.

GAIN, *adj.* handy and dextrous, as Johnson explains it. But it is of more extensive sense, and by no means out of use, as he supposed it to be. On the contrary, it is very frequently used, and means convenient ; desirable ; just as may be wished. Ex. "The land lies very *gain* for me." "I bought this horse very *gain*," (cheap.) W. W. R. BR. as a qualifying term used with other words ; "*gain* quiet," pretty quiet. A. S. *gean*, obvie.

GALDER, *v.* to prate in a coarse, vulgar, noisy manner.

GALDER, *s.* coarse, vulgar prate, very noisy and nonsensical. There seems to be sufficient connexion in sense to refer it to A. S. *galdor*, incantatio.

GALL, *s.* a vein of sand in a stiff soil, through which water is drained off, and oozes at soft places on the surface ; otherwise *sand-galls*.

GALLOPPED-BEER, *s.* small beer for present drinking, made by simple boiling, or, as it is called *gallopping*, small quantities of malt and hops together in a kettle. It is only the poor man's mode of brewing.

GALLOW-BALK, *s.* the *balk* or strong bar of iron to which the pothooks, or *hakes*, as we call them, are appended in the open kitchen chimney; so called because it resembles the upper part of the gallows. In R. N. C. it is called, less properly, a *galley-balk*. BR.

GAME-LEG, *s.* a sore or wounded leg. Every lame leg is not a *game-leg* as is it is explained in R. J. nor yet a bandy leg as is implied in Mr. Malone's proposed derivation from C. BR. *cam caroas*. It is more likely to be from Ital. *gamba*, qualified by some adjective now lost; perhaps, through the blunder of some one ignorant of that language, retaining the substantive instead of the adjective, and so producing tautology. It would not be without precedent. "Gamba di Dio" is a very strange expression, explained by Veneroni, "une jambe toute gatée." One sense of *gamba* in Du Cange is "morbi species." It is said to be cured by an unguent. This agrees well enough with what we mean by a *game-leg*. The term belongs to the leg only. Nobody ever had a game arm, hand, or even foot.

GANDER, *v.* to gad; to ramble. In L. sc. *dander*. Both seem synonymous with *wander*, which is the more modern word and the general form. But

our's is nearest to the etymón. It is a frequent. of A. s. *gan*, ire.

GANG, *s.* a number of things of the same sort going together. It is very commonly applied to persons ; as, a *gang* of robbers, gipsies, &c. by us, to certain inanimate things, as a *gang* of harrows, a *gang* of calves' feet, sheep's trotters, cow-heels, &c. *gang* of lighters on a navigable river or canal, &c. BR.

GANGER, *s.* a goer ; a speedy horse. SC. N.

GANT, *s.* a village fair or wake. There are probably few instances of the use of it. But in those few it is not likely to be lost. Mattishall Gant, is in no danger of losing its ancient name, while it retains any portion of its attraction and celebrity in the neighbourhood. As an assembly, a place of resort, it comes easily from A. s. *gan*, ire.

GANTY-GUTTED, *adj.* gaunt ; lean and lanky. It of course follows the derivation of *gaunt*, which is obvious enough, and without difficulty brought to our form. From A. s. *gewanian*, *tabescere*, comes its part. *gewant*, *gwant*, *gant*,

GAPE-STICK, *s.* a large wooden spoon, to which it is necessary to open the mouth wide. R. N. C. has *gob-stick*. Q. V. *Mouth-stick*, BR. This is very well, but our's is better ; being 'strictly a Saxon compound. A. s. *geapan*, *pandere*, and *sticce*, *cochleare*.

GARLE, *v.* to mar butter in the making, by handling in summer with hot hands. This turns it to a curd-like substance, with spots and streaks of paler colour, instead of the uniformly smooth con-

sistency and golden hue, which it ought to have. Very nice dairy-women use a piece of thin flat wood, instead of the hand. But this requires greater care and more time; so the butter is *garled* by being made in too much haste. It may come from A. s. *geare*, expeditè.

GARTLESS. *adj.* heedless; thoughtless; regardless. N. Fr. *gart*, q. d. *garde*.

GARTLE-HEAD, *s.* a thoughtless person.

GAST or GHAIST-COW, *s.* a cow which does not produce a calf in the season. Otherwise a *farrow-cow*, q. v. A. s. *gast*, spiritus.

GAT, *s.* an opening in the great sand-bank which lies at the back of Yarmouth roads. There are several, distinguished by names, as fisherman's *gat*, &c. Isl. *gat*, foramen.

GATTER-BUSH, GATTRIDGE, *s.* the wild gelder-rose, *Viburnum opulus*, or the wild dog-wood, *Cornus sanguinea*, Lin. CH. has *gaitre*, which looks like Fr. but there is A. s. *gate-treow*, cornus.

GAVEL, GAVIN, *s.* a sheaf of corn before it is tied up. The first is the better word.

GAVEL, *v.* to collect mown corn into heaps in order to its being loaded. Fr. *gavelle*.

GAULT, *s.* brick earth. R. N. C. Occasionally any sort of heavy and adhesive earth.

GAWP. *v.* to gape vèry wide; to stare with a sort of idiotic wonder. Intens. W. C. BR.

GAYS, *s. pl.* prints to ornament books. The word is in Johns. on the sole authority of L'Estrange, who was a Norfolk man, and not infrequently betrays it.

GAY-CARDS, *s. pl.* the cards in a pack which are painted with figures.

GE, *v.* to go. Ex. "This does not *ge* well with that."

"He and she will never *ge* together," meaning, it is an ill-suited match. W. C. JEN. It may be added here, that when we mean to make our draught-horses go on, we call indifferently *ge-ho*, or *ge-wo*! This is sad confusion, and we ought to know better; for *ge-ho*, being interpreted, means *go-stop*, and *ge-wo* is *go-go*. We express ourselves with much more propriety, when we say *wooch-wo* and *wo*, *q. v.* A. S. *gegan*, ire.

GEAR, *s.* stuff; tackle of any sort. CH. has *gere*, in such a sense. We call medicines "doctor's *gear*." Household furniture is sometimes called *gear*. Harness for cart-horses is called their *gears*. And if a man is in a state of activity and exertion, we say he is in his "going *gears*." A. S. *geara*, apparatus.

GENERALS, *s. pl.* the Archdeacon's Visitation. The diocese of Norwich seems to be the only one in which this popular name is used. It is to be presumed that every where the Visitation is officially called the Archdeacon's *General* Court.

GET, *v.*

1. Phr. "To *get shut* of," to get rid or quit of. The exact meaning, no doubt is, to get parted or shut out from something disagreeable. BR. shot.
2. Phr. "To *get over* the left shoulder," to be a loser. The direct and effectual mode of getting must be understood to be, by the right hand. Still something may be got even by a left-handed attempt.

But over the left shoulder, nothing can come within reach of either hand, but any thing may be thrown away. This explanation, if in any degree it be so, may still be thought unsatisfactory.

GIFFLE, *v.* to be restless; unquiet; fidgetty. It ought to be spelled with *g*, not *j*; as the **DICTT.** have it. There can be no doubt of its formation from the old word *gliff* (the twinkling of an eye), by a very easy metathesis.

GIFFY, *s.* the shortest possible portion of time; the winking of an eye. Ex. "I will do it in a *giffy*; or a couple of *giffies*." Certainly it belongs to *giffle*, and so to *gliff*. **L. SC. BR.**

GIG, *s.* a trifling, silly, flighty fellow. The word is given by Johns. in other senses, and said to be of uncertain etymology. In our sense the etymology seems sure enough. **A. s.** *gegas*, *s. pl.* *nugæ*. The sing. must be *geg*.

GIGGISH, *adj.* **GIGGISHLY**, *adv.* from the subst. above.

GILVER, *v.* to ache; to throb. Much the same as *Culver*, which seems to have been melted or shaven down to this. Perhaps it implies a less violent thrabbing.

GIM, **GIMMY**, *adj.* spruce; neat; smart. **C. Brit.** *gwymp*.

GIMBLE, *v.* to grin or smile. Though the *g* in this word is hard, and soft in all the others with the same initial syllable, they seem to be all of the same family and descent, except the **Fr.** one, which is quite distinct.

GIMMERS, *s. pl.* small hinges; as those of a box or

cabinet; or even of the parlour door. CH. has *gim-mews* in the same sense, which comes nearer to the Fr. word offered below, in the second syllable than our word does. It is of course inserted here according to the first syllable. SH. Hen. V. speaks of a *gimmel* bit; the parts of which, it must be supposed, were fitted to each other as nicely as hinges. The second syllable may probably, in this instance too, come even nearer still to the Fr. if the word, in an earlier stage of that language, ended in *al* as many such words certainly did. BR. *jimmers*. JEN. *gimmace*. Fr. *gemeau*.

GIMSON, *s.* a gimcrack.

GIMSONER, *s.* one who is ingenious in making gimcracks or knick-knacks.

GINGER, *adj.* of a pale red colour, particularly applied to hair.

GINGERLY, *adv.* very nicely and cautiously. Ex. "You must touch it quite *gingerly*;" as if it were as likely to break between the fingers as a cake of very thin and crisp gingerbread.

GIVE, *v.*

1. Phr. "To *give* one a good word," to recommend, or represent him favourably. A phrase admitting a variety of applications. Ex. "Give my compliments to Mr. A." "I will *give* you a good word," make you seem civil. "If you offer yourself as a servant to Mr. B. I will *give* you a good word. In Suff. it would be, "*do* you a good word."
2. Phr. "To *give* one it." To rate or to beat him soundly; to *give* him his share or his due.
3. Phr. "To *give* one his own;" to tell him plain

- but unwelcome truths ; or to pay him in his own coin ; to requite his abuse ; or to return his blows.
4. Phr. " To *give* one the bag ;" to dismiss ; to turn him off to shift for himself as he may.
5. Phr. " To *give* one white-foot ;" to coax him. The phrase is certainly allusive to the fawning of a dog.
6. " To *give* one the seal of the day ;" to greet civilly with a salutation suitable to the hour of meeting ; as " good morning," or " good evening." Our phrase is general, and exactly equivalent to " *give* you good time of day," in SH.
7. Phr. " To *give* grant." To allow authoritatively. The Justice, the overseer, or any body else in authority is often solicited to " *give* grant," that such or such a thing may be done.

A. S. *sæl*, opportunitas.

GLEMTH, GLENT, GLINT, *s.* a glimpse ; a short and slight view. PE. has *glint* ; and in B. G. the verb *glint* is to peep ; certainly from *gly*. *Glent* may, however, be a separate word, from Isl. *glenna*, pandere, as BR. suggests.

GLORE, GLOUR, *v.* to stare with earnest and angry eyes. It may seem an intens. of *glare*, but comes directly from Teut. *gloeren*, limis oculis aspicere.

GLOUSE, *s.* a strong gleam of heat, from sunshine or a blazing fire. L. SC. *glose* or *gloise*. Isl. *glosse*, flamma.

GLUSKY, *adj.* sulky in aspect. Perhaps no more than a metath. of that word, intended to be strengthened by borrowing *g* from *gloom* or *glore*.

GLY-HALTER, *s.* a halter or bridle with winkers, as those of draught-horses. In R. N. C. to *gly* is to "look askint." In B. G. it is to look off the right line." SK. proposes no very inapposite derivation from A. S. *gleyan*, *candescere* (to gleam).

GO, *v.* Used with an unlimited variety of parts. active; to *go* a-gunning, a-mumping, a-poking, &c. &c.

GOAF, *s.* a rick of corn in the straw laid up in a barn; if in the open air it is a *stack*. PL. *goaves*.

GOAF-FLAP, *s.* a wooden beater to knock the ends of the sheaves, and make the *goaf* or stack more compact and flat. In Suffolk the *goaf-flap* is seldom or never used; but it is a standing joke on the 1st of April to send a boy, or a silly fellow, to borrow a *goaf-flap*; and the messenger invariably "runs the gauntlet" of all the servants and labourers at the farm house, to which he is sent.

GOAF-STEAD, *s.* every division of a barn in which a *goaf* is placed. A large barn has four or more. The threshing-floor is called the *middle-stead*. A. S. *stede*, locus.

GOAVE, *v.* to stow corn in a barn. PE. Ex. "Do you intend to *stack* this wheat, or to *goave* it?"

GOB, *s.*

1. The mouth. Ex. "Shut your *gob*." BR. A great talker is said "to have the gift of the *Gob*."
2. A large mouth-filling morsel, particularly of something greasy. Ex. "A *gob* of fat, suet, bacon, pudding, or dumplin, well soaked in dripping, which will easily slip down. The Fr. phrase, "avaler tout de *gob*," Cotgr. has exactly the same meaning.

3. Metaph. A considerable lump of something not eatable. Johnson explains it "a small quantity," and quotes a passage from L'Estrange, in which there can be little doubt (though the book is not at hand) that it means a large one. By "such a *gob* of money," our countryman must have meant, as we still mean, by the very same phrase, a good round sum. O. Fr. *gobe*; or perhaps, c. BR. *gob*; both signifying the same; something which can be swallowed.

GO-BY-THE-GROUND, *s.* an expressive, if not an elegant compound, signifying a person of very low stature. *FR.* Sometimes used as an adjective.

GOBBLE, *s.* noisy talk.

GOBBLER, *s.* a turkey-cock.

GOD-SEND, *s.* a beneficial acquisition, quite unexpected, and piously or presumptuously considered as a gift from Heaven.

GOD-HA'MERCY, *s.* something to be considered as a blessing granted to prayer. *Ex.* "That was no *God-ha'mercy* of yours." That is, I acknowledge it as a favour from Heaven, but owe you no thanks for your prayers to obtain it.

GOINGS-ON, *s. pl.* procedures; behaviour. "Strange *goings-on* among young people now-a-days!" *L. sc.* *On-goings.*

GOLDEN-DROP, *s.* the variety of plum, called in our catalogues of fruits, by its proper Fr. name *drap d'or*. Our word is rather curiously constructed; being half a correct translation, and half a ridiculous perversion of the French one.

GOLDEN-KNOP, *s.* the lady-fly; otherwise golden-

bug. This name must be from the colour or brilliancy of the insect's head.

GOLES, GOSH, GOMS, *s.* foolish and very vulgar evasions of profane oaths, all including the Sacred Name, combined with some other word or words, which it might not be very difficult to conjecture, if not to ascertain. But it would be worse than waste of time. These evasions cannot be presumed to be very ancient. The farther we trace backwards, the less need of them there seems to have been. In many of our old comedies, which certainly exhibit the familiar dialogue of the times in which they were written, we find an offensive abundance of profane swearing, as well as of gross obscenity, which would not be endured now-a-days on the stage, or in any decent society. **SH.** makes Hotspur reprove his lady, a woman of the first quality, for "swearing like a comfit-maker's wife;" for using minced or sugared oaths, which melt in the mouth, and recommends to her, to "swear like a gentlewoman," good "mouth filling oaths!" **CH.** makes his most decent characters swear "by G-d" in their common talk. Some persons, indeed, must at all times have been scrupulous of talking profanely, or irreverently. But for any general modes of evasion, we must come down perhaps to the time of the Reformation or even of Puritanism. Yet, after all, one of the three vulgar words we are discussing, may be one of very high antiquity. A conjecture may at least be allowed. Somner says that the Saxon particle *gum*, "in vocum initiis eminentiam denotat." Supposing the

particle in process of time advanced to the dignity of a noun, and preceded by an attendant preposition, by *gams*, or *gums*, would mean, "by whatsoever is great or good." Both those expressions are common every where, and both must be conceived to partake somewhat of the meaning of an "oath by the Greatest." But there is also a variety of petty "formulae jurandi," very harmless and very silly, in which all such allusion is effectually avoided, and only ideas quite ludicrous are conveyed—by all that is comical, whimsical, musical, physical; in short, nonsensical.

GOLLS, *s. pl.* fat chops; or ridges of fat on the fleshy parts of a corpulent person. It is in Johnson, with authorities, as used contemptuously for hands; paws. It is not known to us in that sense.

GOOD-DOING, *adj.* charitable in various modes.

Ex. "The parson's daughters are very *good-doing* young women." A. S. *god-doen*, benefacere.

GOOD-MIND, GOOD-SKIN, *s.* many combinations of the *adj. good*, with different substantives, are detailed in Johnson. But these two are not among them. They both express good humour. Ex. "He is not in a *good mind*, or he is in a bad skin to-day."

GOOD'N, GOODY, *s.* two words of venerable antiquity, contractions of *good-man* and *good-wife* (the first sometimes farther contracted to *go'on*). Not many years since, they were the universal address of the simple cottager and his spouse. They are, here and there, yet retained by a few aged couples. And now modern refinement has generally substi-

tuted mister and mistress, it is very pleasing to hear an old woman talk of her *good'n*, and her old husband of his *goody*. The L. sc. with that simplicity which gives such a charm to their dialect, still have *gude-man* and *gude-wife* at full length, and in constant use. "Much out of use." w. c.

GOOD-TIDY, *adj.* The adv. *good*, in its sense of "reasonably," or "not amiss," as given by Johnson, does not satisfy us without the addition of *tidy*, which in strictness means *timely*, from A. s. *tid*. Ex. "She staid a *good tidy* stound," i. e. "a good while." It has not, however, always a perceptible connection with time. Ex. "This is a *good tidy* crop," i. e. "a pretty good one."

GOOD-TIDILY, *adv.* reasonably; pretty well.

GOOSE-GOG, *s.* a goose-berry; particularly when ripe. Fr. *gogue*. Cotgr.

GORE, *s.* mire. "Slush and *gore*" are generally mentioned together. The former expresses the thin, the latter the thick part of the mire. A. s. *gor*, lutum. BR.

GORE-BLOOD, *s.* clotted, congealed blood. The words separately used are doubtless general; but, thus combined, seem to be provincial. Certainly archaic. As the Nurse in SH. Romeo and Juliet, says of Tybalt, "all in *gore-blood*," exactly so would an East-Anglian nurse say on a like occasion. Or, perhaps, "all of a *gore*," or "all of a *gore of blood*."

GOSGOOD, *s.* yeast. Sir T. Browne. Ray says, that in his time it was in use also in Kent. But he does not say, nor is it possible to conceive, how it is entitled to so exalted an interpretation as he be-

stows upon it—*God's good!* A meaning much more suitable and seemly, and surely not improbable, may be conjectured. It may have had its origin from A. S. *gos*, anser. In Norfolk, if not in every part of East Anglia, yeast dumplings have been immemorially associated with a roasted goose; and when properly soaked in the natural gravy of the fowl, are of a very delicious savour to a true East Anglian palate. In this sense yeast may be said to be *good with goose*, and called *goose-good*, or, in the most ancient form, *gosgood*. But the word is now utterly extinct. The taste remains.

GOSLIN, *s.* the male catkin of different species of *salix*; their soft down, and the yellow colour of the antheræ have a sufficient resemblance to a young goose lately hatched to warrant the name.

GOTCH, *s.* a large coarse ewer or pitcher. Though it is not exclusively a kitchen utensil, nor at all used in cookery, it seems to come near enough to be probably deduced from, Ital. *gozzo*.

GOTCH-BELLY, *s.* a fair round belly, much resembling the protuberance of a *gotch*.

GO-TO-BED-AT-NOON, *s.* the apposite name of the common goat's-beard, *Tragopogon pratense*, Lin. It is not less applicable, and perhaps often applied, to some other plants of the class *syngenesia*, which expand their flowers only in the fore-noon.

GOW, *v.* let us go; an abbreviation of "*go we*," the plur. imper. of the verb to go. It implies, let us all go together. A farmer in Suffolk, speaking of the difference between the old farmers' wives and the modern ones, observed, "that when his mo-

ther called the maids at 'milking-time,' she never said *go*, but *gow*." It is certainly a very ancient form of expression, and is used by the translator of the "Stimulus Conscientie," or "Prykke of Conscience," supposed to be of the 14th century, exactly in the same sense as we use it at this day. "Gowe now to that part that furst ys." (It is pronounced like "mow.")

GRAIN, *v.* to gripe the throat; to strangle. *A. s.* *gryne*, *laqueus*.

GRASS-WIDOW, *s.* a forsaken fair one, whose nuptials, not celebrated in a church, were consummated, in all pastoral simplicity, on the green turf.

GRAVES, *s. pl.* the settlings of the melted tallow, made into cakes, and given as food to dogs. *BR.* *groves*.

GRAZE, *v.* to become covered with the growth of grass.

GREASE, *s.* a faint and dim suffusion over the sky, not amounting to positive cloudiness, and supposed to indicate approaching rain.

GREASE, *v.* to assume that appearance. *Ex.* "The sky begins to *grease up*; we shall soon have rain."

GREASY, *adj.* having that appearance. *Ex.* "The sky is *greasy*." The words are all descriptive, however mean be the metaphor.

GREEN-OLF, *s.* the green finch, or, more properly, green grosbeak. *Parus viridus*, *Lin.*

GREEN-WEED, *s.* the dyer's broom, *genista tinctoria*, *Lin.* Its foliage is of a very bright green.

GREWIN, *s.* a greyhound. It was anciently spelled *a gre-hound*. In Yorkshire, it seems, they call the female a *grew-bitch*. *FE.* Our word includes both

sexes, and is probably a rapid and confused pronunciation of *grew-hound*. L. sc. *grew*.

GREY-COAT PARSON, *s.* an impropiator; or, the tenant who hires the tithes.

GREY-RUSSET, *s.* coarse cloth of a dull grey colour, commonly preceded by the epithet *dandy*, q. v.

GREFT, GRIFT, *v.* to graft.

GREFT, GRIFT, *s.* an engrafted scion. Johnson derives *graft* from Fr. *greffe*; Lye and H. Tooke from A. s. *grafian*, sepelire. But as the process of incision has a nearer connection with sculpture than with sepulture, another A. s. word is proposed below, as a more suitable etymon. Whether the Fr. or the A. s. word here proposed be preferred, our narrow pronunciation comes nearer to either than the common one. A. s. *græft*, sculptile.

GRIGS, *s. pl.* small eels. T. B. *snigs*.

GRIMBLE, *v.* to begrime. A dimin. Ex. "The child's face is *grimbled* with collar." *Grumbled* in the same sense is stronger, implying a thicker coat of dirt.

GRIMMER, *s.* a pond, or mere, of considerable extent, but of such moderate depth as to have much of its surface covered with weeds, appearing to the eye a *green mere*. A. s. *gren*, viridis, and *mere*, palus.

GRINDLE, *s.* a small and narrow drain for water. But *drindle* is a better word, q. v. *Grindlet* is in R. S. E. C.

GRINT, *s.* grit. But it is a better word; for it is a participle regularly formed from *grind*. CH. has it in this sense. W. has *grinting* for gnashing of teeth.

GRINTY, *adj.* gritty.

GRISSENS, *s. pl.* stairs. The singular noun *grise* is

used by SH. in *Othello* and *Twelfth Night*. Our word, however, is a corruption or mispronunciation of *grassings*, q. d. *steppings*; or of *gree-stones*, q. d. *step-stones*, from old Fr. *grè*, *grieces*, and *griece*, collectively for a flight of steps, which occur in different o. e. authors and glossaries. It is not peculiar to us in modern use. On the steep south side of the bold hill on which the church and part of the city of Lincoln stand, is a long flight of stone stairs to the bottom, called by every body there, the Grecian stairs. Many a learned dignitary, better skilled in Greek than in o. e. has, no doubt, been puzzled to conceive how they could have acquired such a name. The proper name would certainly be the *gree-stones*. For we will not insist on their being called, as we should call them, the *grissens*.

GROANING, *s.* a lying-in. It is in Ashmole's Dict. Mr. Todd has supplied the word, but not in this sense. Yet it is probably general. BR. JEN.

GROANING-CAKE, *s.* a cake made on such occasions, with which about as many superstitious tricks are played as with *bride-cake*. BR.

GROUND-FIRING, *s.* roots of trees and bushes, taken as a sort of perquisite by the labourers who stub them, and used for fuel.

GROUND-GUDGEON, *s.* a small fish, adhering by its mouth to stones at the bottom of brooks and shallow rivulets. The loche, otherwise called *ground-bait*, being used to catch pike or perch. It is *cobitis barbatula*. Lin.

GROUND-LARK, *s.* What species of lark is meant is not easy to determine; for all our indigenous species build their nests on the ground. Any, ra-

ther than the sky-lark, which soars to a vast height from the ground, or the wood-lark, which perches and sings on boughs.

GROUND-RAIN, *s.* a plentiful but gradual fall of rain, which works its way deep into the ground.

GROUT, *s.* a sort of thin mortar, poured into the interstices of building materials, as flints, or other substances of small size and irregular shape, which cannot be laid even. They are confined by a wooden frame till the *grout* is incorporated with them, and fixed. Then the frame is removed, and another portion of wall formed in like manner. Johnson defines *grout* "coarse mortar mixed with hair." Hair-mortar, which certainly is coarse and stiff, is used for a very different purpose, for plastering, not for cementing. The walls of churches, and other very antient edifices, appear to have been *grouted*; and after several centuries are found to retain a rocky hardness.

GROW, *v. a.* to cultivate; or cause to grow. Ex. "I *grow* no oats this year."

GROWER, *s.* a cultivator. Ex. "He is a great *grower* of hemp." It is also applied, as well as the verb, to live stock. Ex. "I do not *grow* turkeys." "He is a *grower* of lambs, pigs, &c."

GRUB, *s.* idle, nonsensical talk.

GRUBBLINGS, *adv.* Phr. "to lie *grubblings*," i. e. grovelling, with the face downwards. In *L. sc.* it is *gruffling*. The change is easy of *b*, *f*, and *v*. *Isl. gruva*, pronus jacere, Lye.

GRUB-FELLING, *s.* felling of trees by undermining them, and cutting away all their roots.

GRUFFLE, *v.* to make a sort of growling noise in the

throat, as men are wont to do in sleep or in drink.

In fact, it is a dimin. of *growl*.

GRUMPY, *adj.* surly; dissatisfied. Sui.-G. *grimpta*, ringor.

GRUNNY, *s.* the snout of a hog. R. N. C. *Groin*, PE.

The Fr. has, *groyne* de porceau. But our word comes better from Isl. *graun*, nasus.

GRUP, **GROOP**, *s.* a trench, not amounting in breadth to a ditch. If narrower still, it is a *grip*; if extremely narrow, a *gripple*. A. S. *gryp*, sulcus.

GRUTCH, *v.* to grudge. O. E. L. SC.

GULL, *v.* to sweep away by force of running water.

Ex. "The bank has been *gulled* down by the freshes, q. v.

GULL, *s.* a breach or hole made by the force of a torrent.

GULLY-HOLE, *s.* the mouth of a drain, sink, or common sewer. Sui.-G. *goel*, vorago.

GULP, *s.*

1. The young of any animal in its softest and tenderest state. Can the meaning be (hyperbolically) that it looks as if it might be swallowed, taken down at a *gulp*? *Gulp-o'-the-nest*, the smallest of the brood.

2. A very short squabby diminutive person.

3. A very severe blow or fall; enough to beat the sufferer to mummy. Here is enough of association. But in this sense it must be taken as a variation of *culp*, which we use in its proper sense, and q. v.

GULSH, *s.*

1. Mud. In L. SC. it is *glush*, and may be only another form of *slush*.

2. A heavy fall.

GULSH, *adv.* plump; souse, &c. applied to a fall; primarily and properly into mud, but very indefinitely used. A man may fall down *gulsh* upon a hard, dry road or pavement.

GULSKY, *adj.* corpulent and gross. Teut. *gulsigh*, *gulosus*.

GUMPTION, *s.* understanding. JAM. and PE. Common sense. JEN. Common sense combined with energy. BR. With us, it seems rather to mean address and shrewdness. It is a good word, and may have many shades of meaning. Moes.-G. *gaumian*, *percipere*. BR. has *gawm* in this sense.

GUNNER, *s.* a shooter.

GUNNING, *s.* the sport of shooting: it occurs in Beaumont and Fletcher.

GUNNING-BOAT, *s.* a light and narrow boat in which the fen-men pursue the flocks of wild fowl along their narrow drains.

GURN, *v.* to grin like a dog. O. E.

GUSH, *s.* a gust of wind. A properer word than *gust*. The air, like other fluids, *gushes* where it finds a vent. *Gust*, as applied to wind, has no sort of connexion with any of its other senses, and is, in fact, another word from a different etymon.

GUSSOCK, *s.* a strong and sudden *gush* of wind. Intens. of *gush*.

GUTTER, **GUTTER-HOLE**, *s.* a sink or kennel. The general sense of *gutter* is a passage for water particularly, but not exclusively, from the roofs of houses. But with us the idea of filth is inseparable from it.

GUTTER-SLUSH, **GUTTER**, *s.* kennel dirt. Ex.

"She fell down in the street, and her clothes were all over nothing but gutter." L. SC. *gutter*.

GUY, *s.* a person oddly and fantastically dressed; a scare-crow; probably taken from the ridiculous figures used to represent Guy Faux in processions on the 5th of November. Ex. "He looked quite a guy."

GYE, *s.* a name of different weeds growing among corn. In some places, *Ranunculus arvensis*, Lin. is so called, and in others, different species of *gali-*
um; sufficient diversity.

GYLE, *s.* wort. In R. N. C. and FR. it is spelt *guile*. But this is the L. SC. word, and of FR. PA. in which it has the sense of new ale. A. S. *gylla*, stridere, or Teut. *ghijl*, cremor cerevisii.

GYLE-VAT, GYLE-TUB, *s.* the vessel in which wort is fermented. A. SC. BR. *guile*.

H.

HACK, HALF-HACK, *s.* a hatch; a doot divided across. Johnson derives *hatch* from Fr. *hacher*; and certainly *ch* and *ck* are readily commutable. But there is something forced and ridiculous in the idea of *hacking* a door. Our word has probably a more ancient origin. A. S. *haca*, pessulus. W. W. R. *heck*. BR. *half-heck*.

HACK, *v.*

1. To stammer; to cut words in pieces. Here the Fr. *hacher* may come in. It is in this sense that nurse

Quickly blames parson Hugh for teaching young William Page to *hack*.

2. To cough faintly and frequently.

HACKING-COUGH, *s.* a faint tickling cough. *V.* *Тѣаіах.*

HACKLE, *v.* to shackle, or tether beasts, to prevent their running away. *M. s.*

HACK-SLAVERING, *adj.* stammering, and sputtering; like a dunce at his lesson.

HAGGY, *adj.* Applied to the broken and uneven surface of the soil, when in a moist state. Were it dried and hardened by sun or frost, it would be *hobbly*. In the north a *hag* is a quagmire. *FE. BR.* *Isl. hagga*, tremere. *L. sc.*

HAIFER, *v.* to toil. The connexion of labour with sorrow seems to point out its derivation from *A. s. heafian*, moerere.

HAIT-WO! a word of command to horses in a team, meaning, "go to the left;" for *wo*, in this case, is not stop, but go, by the commutability of *w* and *g* in *A. s.* words. This was horse-language in the fourteenth century. *CH.* "*Heit* scot! *heit* broc!" which, by the way, are names still given to cart-horses. *Fr. hay* and *ho*. *Cotgr.*

HAKE, *s.* a pothook. The progress is *hook*, *hake*, *hake*. But this is inverted order. Our's is the ancient word, from which the others came. *Sui.-G. hake*, *cuspis uncinata*. *G. A.*

HAKE, *v.* to toil; particularly in walking. There is an obvious connexion in sense with *hack* and *hackney*. It is often joined with *hatter*, *q. v.* *Ex.* "He has been *haking* and *hattering* all day long." *JAM.*

has *haik*, to saunter. GR. to loiter. Teut. *hoeche*, *sarcina*. BR.

HALF-HAMMER, *s.* the game of "hop, step, and jump;" and a very fine athletic exercise it is. One boy challenges another to "go the *half-hammer*."

HALF-ROCKED, *adj.* oafish; silly. It seems to imply that a poor creature's education as a simpleton was begun even in his cradle by his careless nurse.

HALLOWDAY, *s.* a holiday. Usage has settled the point; but if that arbitrary authority had not been interposed, it would be difficult to determine whether a *hallowed* day or a *holy* day were preferable. If it were spelled *haliday* it would be strictly Saxon. A. S. *haleg*, sanctus, and *daeg*, dies.

HAND, *v.* to sign. Ex. "They made me *hand* a paper."

HAND, *s.* performance. It is the eleventh sense of the word in Johns. and nothing is commoner than to speak of making a good or a bad hand of any undertaking. With us, the phrase, in the latter sense, admits no qualifying epithet. To "make a *hand* on," is to make waste of," to spoil or destroy. Ex. "He has made a *hand* of all he had;" he has wasted his whole property.

HAND (of Pork), *s.* the shoulder joint of a hog, cut without the blade-bone. Why not as well as the *knuckle* of veal?

HAND-OVER-HEAD, *adv.*

1. Thoughtlessly extravagant.

2. Hemp is said to be dressed "*hand-over-head*," when the coarse part is not separated from the fine.

HAND-SMOOTH, *adv.* uninterruptedly, without ob-

stable. Also entirely. Ex. "He ate it up *hand-smooth*."

HANDSTAFF, *s.* the handle of a flail. *V. SWINGEL.*
HANG, *s.*

1. A crop of fruit. "A good-tidy *hang* of apples."

2. A declivity. Johns. has the verb *hang* in the correspondent sense, but not the noun. We use it in such a modification of sense as suits us, who have no mountains, and very few considerable hills.

A. s. hange, mons.

HANGING-LEVEL, *s.* a regular and uninterrupted declivity; an inclined plane.

HANG-NAIL, *s.* a minute portion of the cuticle, rising and slivered off about the roots of the fingernails.

HANG-SLEEVE, *s.* a dangler; an officious but unmeaning suitor. This image, of hanging from the fair one's sleeve, is much neater and more delicate, than that of being "tied to her apron string."

HANG-SUCH, *s.* a worthless fellow; a fit candidate for a halter. It seems exactly equivalent to the *L. sc. hempie*.

HANK, *s.* a fastening for a door or gate. Johns. gives it as a Northern word in this sense. It is also Eastern, and exactly suits its etymon. We say also a *hank* of thread. *Isl. hank, catena.*

HAP, *v.* to cover or wrap up. *W. W. R. BR.*

HAPPING, *s.* covering. Wrappers; warm clothing.
W. W. R. BR.

HAP-HARLOT, *s.* a coarse coverlet. In *O. E.* the name *harlot* was applied to persons of either sex, of loose character, and generally, but not always,

of low condition. Chaucer's Sompnour was "a gentil harlot." The word is still used for a *scoundrel* in L. SC. JAM. Holinshed writes it *hop-harlot*. A. S. *hæpian*, *cumulare*. BR.

HARBER, *s.* the *horn-beam*, or *hard-beam*, as it is otherwise called, of which this is a manifest corruption.

HARDS, *s. pl.*

1. Coarse flax; otherwise *tow-hards*. CH. has *herdes* in the same sense.

A. S. *heordes*, *stupa*.

2. The very hard cinders commonly called iron-cinders. The calx of pit-coal imperfectly vitrified by intense heat. M. S.

HARNSEY, *s.* a heron. A pretty obvious contraction, not to say corruption, of the old name *heron-sew e*, *her'nsewe*, *Harnsey*.

HARNSEY-GUTTED, *adj.* lank and lean, like a *harnsey*.

HARRIAGE, *s.* confusion. The *i* is to be sunk in pronunciation, as in carriage and marriage. Ex. "They are all up at *harriage*." I think I have heard that, in the south part of Suffolk, the phrase, "He is gone to *Harwich*," (alike in pronunciation), means he is gone to rack and ruin. It is from the old verb *harry*, to harrass, drive, &c. Fr. *harier*.

HARREN, *adj.* made of hair, q. d. *hairen*. "A *harren* brum," is a hair broom.

HARVEST-LORD, *s.* the principal reaper, who goes first, and whose motions regulate those of his followers. He is, or was a very few years ago, always dignified with the title of "My Lord." It was so in the time of Queen Elizabeth. T.

HARVEST-LADY, *s.* the second reaper in the row, who supplies, or supplied, my Lord's place on his occasional absence; but does not seem to have been ever so regularly greeted by the title, except on the day of harvest-home. The **DICTT.** call this personage the *Harvest-Queen*. Dr. D. E. Clark says that, on inquiry in Cambridgeshire, he understood that to be the denomination. He would not have received such information in Norfolk. We have no higher title than Lady; and even that seems in danger of being lost. Tusser does not mention it.

HASE, *s.* the heart, liver, &c. of a hog, seasoned, wrapped up in the omentum and roasted. It seems the origin of the dimin. *haslet* which is in the **DICTT.** Fr. *hastilles*, entrails, or *hasti*, a spit.

HASSOCK, *s.* coarse grass growing in rank tufts in boggy ground. Johns. has the word in its current sense, of "a thick mat to kneel on." He offers two derivations; one, after **SK.** from Teut. *haseck*, the other from two Swedish or rather Sui.-G. words from Sereneus, signifying a sack made of rushes. Now, according to **SK.** the Teutonic word signifies the hide of an animal, and has therefore no connexion with rushes; and certainly a *hassock* to kneel upon has no resemblance at all to a *sack*, though it is made of rushes. The fact is that ours is the primary and proper, and the other is a derived sense. These *hassocks* in bogs, were formerly taken up with a part of the soil, matted together with roots, shaped, trimmed, and dressed, a sufficient part of their shaggy and tufted surface being left, to make kneeling much easier than on the pavement of the church, or the bare boarded floor

of a pew. Some remains of them are still to be found in some of our meaner parish churches, particularly in the fens, or the near neighbourhood of them. A derivation may be proposed of the word in its proper sense, certainly more probable and suitable than either of those adduced by Johns. *Hassocks* seem to be the most safe and convenient lodgment for hares, which often abound in such places. Teut. *hase*, *lepus*, might suffice. Or, perhaps, it might not be thought too forced and fanciful to suppose A. s. *hara*, *lepus*, and *soc*, territorium, or *socn*, refugium.

HASSOCK-HEAD, *s.* a shock head; a bushy and entangled growth of coarse hair.

HATTER, *v.* to harrass and exhaust with fatigue.

Johns. quotes Dryden for it; and supposes it a corruption of *batter*. The change of *h* for *b* is very violent. May it not be far more likely to come from the Fr. *hâter*. Nothing is more harassing and fatiguing than much haste. Or it may be Is. *haetta*, periclitari. L. sc. *BR.*

HAVEL, *s.*

1. The beard of barley.
2. The slough of a snake.

It seems a dimin. of *haw*, *q. v.*

HAW, *s.* the ear of oats. The stiff dry awns and glumes of the gramineous plants may be said, not unaptly, to be a sort of *hedge* to protect the seeds. Another form of *haw* is *hagh*, which is from A. s. *haga*, sepes.

HAWKEY, *s.* the feast at harvest-home. Probably, from hark ye! i. e. to the festive call, to the voice

of joy and revelry. An ingenious lady proposed the Fr. words *haut cri*, as a derivation. Very descriptive, no doubt, but more plausible than probable. *Æ.* calls it *hockey*, but we never pronounce it so. Bloomfield, the rustic poet of Suffolk, calls it the *horky*. Both these words are very intractable to an etymologist.

HAWKEY-LOAD, *s.* the last load of the crop, which, in simpler and ruder times, before Norfolk farmers were emblazoned into agriculturists, was always led home on the evening of the *hawkey*, with much rustic pageantry; the load and the horses being gaudily decorated with flags, streamers, and garlands; and attended by a troop of masquers in grotesque disguises. Among these, my Lord and my Lady were always most fantastically conspicuous.

HAY, *s.* a hedge; more particularly a clipped quick-set hedge. It is most commonly pronounced as if it were in the pl. n. or rather as if it were spelled *haze*. In Suffolk it is always pron. *hay*. Fr. *haie*.

HAY-CROME, *s.* No rustic implement is now literally called by this name, but a metaphorical use of the word is very common. The characters scrawled by an awkward penman are likened to "*hay-cromes* and pitchforks;" as they more generally are to "pot-hooks."

HAY-JACK, *s.* the lesser reed-sparrow, or sedge-bird of Penn. m. s.

HAY-NET, *s.* a hedge-net. A long low net, to prevent hares or rabbits from escaping to covert, in or through hedges.

HAYSELE, *s.* the season of making hay. *V. SELLE PE HAZE*, *v.* to dry linen, &c. by hanging it up in the fresh air; properly on a hedge. But that circumstance is not essential. Indeed, any thing so exposed is said to be *hazed*, as rows of corn or hay, when a brisk breeze follows a shower.

HAZLE, *v.* to grow dry at top. *Dim.*

HEAD, *s.* face. We say, "I told him so to his *head*," not to his face, which is the usual phrase. Ours is as old as *SH.* "Know, Claudio to thy *head*." Measure for Measure.

HEAD-ACHE, *s.* the wild field-poppy. Any one, by smelling it for a very short time, may convince himself of the propriety of the name.

HEAD-MAN, *s.* the chief hind on a farm. In this one particular application we retain a term used much more at large in the parent language. *A. S. hafod-man*, *præpositus*.

HEADSWOMAN, *s.* a midwife. It would be presumptuous to pry into obstetric mysteries, to discover the origin or propriety of this denomination. We have no correspondent masculine noun. *Accoucheurs* were unknown in the old times, in which this word was generally used and understood. Indeed, such a word as *heads-man*, in this sense, must have been strangely ambiguous, for it signified also the executioner.

HEADS AND HOLLS, HUMPS AND HOLLS, *ss. pl.* pell-mell, and topsy-turvy. Prominences and hollows tumbled confusedly together; promiscuous confusion.

HEAP, *s.* a great number. We talk of "a *heap* of

men," a "*heap* of horses," even of houses, &c. and with undeniable propriety. We use the A. S. *hæpe*, cætas. 22.

HEART, *s.* the stomach. "A pain at the *heart*" means the stomach-ache. Young village practitioners must be much startled at first hearing of this formidable symptom; but a little experience will show that for many such *heart-aches* gin and ipecacuanha are respectively powerful specifics. It is, however, to be observed, that we rustic East Angles are not chargeable with the blame of this confusion of two such very different organs. It is neither a novelty nor a vulgarity, but of very remote antiquity, and to be found even in the language of science. In A. S. we have *heart-secc*, cardiacus. In Gr. we find καρδιαλγία, in the same sense. And it is well known that the medicines called by physicians cordials, and cardiacs, produce their effect by warming the stomach.

HEART-SPOON, *s.* the pit of the stomach. It is, no doubt, so called from the little hollow, or depression, near the point of the sternum. It occurs in CH.

HEDGE-ACCENTOR, *s.* the hedge-sparrow. This quaint and seemingly affected term of East-Anglian ornithology, has not the air of having been invented by the vulgar, or of being likely to be used by them. Many naturalists have thought it proper that this bird should be separated from its nominal connection with the common house-sparrow; and somebody has done so, by this fanciful and far-fetched name. If it can be said to have any mean-

ing at all, can it be that, as in every choir there is a *precentor* to lead, and in some a *succentor* to follow the chaunt, so this feeble warbler is an *accen-tor*, by adding its simple twittering notes to the great chorus of Nature?

HEIFKER, *s.* a heifer. This is the pronunciation of the word, whatever may be its orthography. A conjecture may be allowed, that it is meant to express a *half-cow*; a cow half-grown, not yet come to full size and maturity. However unlike each other the words may appear upon paper, their identity, *ore tenus*, may be easily effected by that confused, indistinctness of utterance, which has elsewhere been remarked. There are other Saxon words of analogous formation. This would be *A. s. healf-cu*.—Since the above was written, a discovery has been made which may possibly be thought to throw some light on this strange word. In the will of a clergyman, which seems to have been preserved among other papers because he was a benefactor to his parish, (Runcton Holme, in Norfolk,) and which is dated in 1579, certain "*heckfordes*," or "*heckforthes*," are bequeathed, obviously meaning *heifers*. These, by metathesis, may easily become *heifkers*, (*ore tenus* again,) only dropping the final *d* or *th* in pronunciation, which is very commonly done, particularly in the names of places, as Thetford is called Thetfor'. May not *heckfer* have been the mispronunciation of *heifker*?

HEIGH'N, *v.* to heighten. This syncopated form of the word is invariably applied to the increase of prices, wages, &c.

HEIR, *v.* to inherit. Ex. "His son will *heir* his estate." It is used by Dryden.

HELP-UP, *v.* to assist or support. It is commonly used ironically. Ex. "I am finely *help up*!" O. E. "A man is well *help up* that trusts in you." SH. Comedy of Errors.

HELVE, *s.* the handle of an axe. It occurs in Johnson, but on no later authority than B. TR. It still lives. PE. A. S. *helf*, manubrium.

HEN-POLLER, *s.* a loft for poultry to roost. Sometimes simply *poller*. Certainly from Ital. *pollajo*.

HEN'S-NOSE-FULL, *s.* a very minute quantity.

HEREAWAYS, *adv.* hereabout. L. SC. JEN.

HERNE, *s.* a nook of land, projecting into another district, parish, or field. A. S. *hern*, angulus. L. SC.

HICK, *v.* to hop or spring. The same word with hick or hiteh, to change place. JEN.

HICKLE, HECKLE, *v.* to dress flax; to break it into its finest fibres. It might be thought a sort of dimin. of *hackle*. But both words come from Teut. *hekelem*, pectere.

HICKLE, *s.* a comb to dress flax. Teut. *hekel*, pecten. BR. *heckle*.

HICKLER, *s.* a dresser of flax or hemp. Teut. *heke-laer*.

HIDE, *v.* to thresh; to curry the hide. BR.

HIDING, *s.* a beating.

HIGGLE, *v.*

1. To be nice and tedious in bargaining. It is dimin. from *haggle*, with a sense of contempt. It implies the most petty chaffering.

2. To effect by slow degrees, and by minute sparing

- and saving. The poor often talk of "*higgling* up a pig;" i. e. buying and fattening it up in that way.
- HIGHLOWS**, *s. pl.* a covering for the foot and ankle, too *high* to be called a shoe, and too *low* for a boot. It seems pretty clearly to be the same with the old *startup*; for authorities v. T. J. and N. G. But it may, perhaps, boast a much remoter origin, and a very ancient instance of the use of the word would be highly acceptable. It may be from A. S. *helian*, *celare*, and *hos*, *calx*.
- HIKE**, *v.* to go away. It is generally used in a contemptuous sense. Ex. "Come, *hike*," i. e. take yourself off; begone. Isl. *hika*, *cedere* (loco).
- HILD**, *s.* the sediment of beer; sometimes used as an imperfect substitute for yeast. CH. has the verb *hylde* signifying to pour. *Heald* to incline. BR. A. S. *ahildan*, *inclinare*, i. e. to stoop the cask.
- HIMP**, *v.* to limp. A variety rather than a corruption. N. *himple*.
- HINGIN**, *s.* a hinge. Belg. *hengene*, *cardo*.
- HINGLE**, *s.*
1. A small hinge.
 2. A snare of wire; moving easily, and closing like a hinge.
- HINGLE**, *v.* to snare. Poachers *hingle* hares and rabbits.
- HIPPANY**, *s.* a part of the swaddling clothes of an infant; a wrapper for the *hips*. In L. sc. it is *hippen*. JAM. BR. *hippings*.
- HIRE**, *v.* to borrow. We speak of "*hiring* money" for taking it up at interest. And why not money as well as house or land? The interest is rent.
- HITCH**, *v.* to change place. The late editor of John-

son has thought proper to reject the great lexicographer's definition of this word ("to move by jerks") and to insert five several senses of it; the last of which is "to move or walk," which he attributes to Norfolk from GR. We disown it. We do not use the word in so large a sense. A man is often desired to *hitch*, in order to make room for another; to *hitch* his chair for the same purpose; to *hitch* any thing which happens to be in the way. JAM. gives much the same sense to the L. sc. word *hatch*, and proposes a derivation much better than that adopted from SK. by Johnson. Isl. *hika*, cedere (scil. loco).

HITHE, *s.* a small port. The A. s. word, indeed, seems to mean a port in general, great or small. The instances given in T. J. are *Queen-hithe* and *Lamb-hithe*, both on the Thames, and in or very near London. With us, the word does seem to mean a petty haven, those which are so called being much farther from the sea than those mentioned above, and on the smaller streams which fall into great rivers. There are several, for instance, on the Wissey, a branch of the Ouse; partaking its name, indeed, Oussey. Methwold-*hithe* and Ox-burgh-*hithe*, many miles from the sea, and not very few from the confluence of the two streams, must always have been very small ports, at which only boats of inconsiderable burthen could discharge their cargoes of coals or deals from Lynn. But this A. s. word has another sense. It is interpreted *commodum* as well as *portus*. We have it in this sense, too, applied to land which could

never at any time have been approached by boats. Cavenham-*hithe*, for instance, in the same neighbourhood with the two *hithe*s last mentioned, is a tract of elevated ground, most likely so called from its being commodiously near the ancient manor-house, to be occupied as demesne land.

HITHERTOWARD, *adv.* towards this time, or place, in which sense it might really be found an useful word, if more generally admitted.

HITTY-MISSY, *adv.* at random ; hit or miss.

HOB, HUB, *s.*

1. The nave of a wheel.
2. The flat ends of a kitchen range, or of a Bath-stove ; not the *back*, as GR. explains it. Saucepans, tea-kettles, &c. are set upon the *hub*, but they could not stand upon the *back-stock*. **BR.**
3. The mark to be thrown at in quoits and some other games.
4. The hilt or guard of a weapon. In general, "up to the *hub*" means as far as possible.

As all the senses of the word convey some idea of breadth and strength, it may be from Belg. *huppe*, *coxendix*.

HOBIDEHOY, *s.* a lad approaching to manhood.

This word is pretty general in the vulgar tongue of England. However, as it is ours, though by no means peculiar to us, it may be introduced here, with a conjectural derivation annexed, perhaps more probable than has hitherto been proposed. Ray would bring it from the Spanish "*hombre de hoy*," i. e. "a man of to-day." The *hobidehoy*, however, is not to be called a man at

all; or at most a "man of *to-morrow*," and not of to-day. A Spanish term might certainly be conceived to have been so incorporated with the English language, as to have been familiarly used in our provincial dialects in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, as this certainly was. Yet a French origin would be more likely and satisfactory. Now, in O. Fr. the verb *hubir* meant to "cause to thrive by wholesome diet," &c. Cotgr. *Hubi* is of course the pass. part. of it. *Huy* signified to-day; now, indeed, obsolete in its simple form, but still existing in the compound *aujourd'hui*. *Hubi dè hui* would therefore be literally, "one well thriven now," a well-grown lad. The change of vowels is absolutely nothing. It may have been made after the word became ours, for the rhyme's sake.

Hobi-de-hoy,

Neither man nor boy,

which is as descriptive of its subject, though not altogether so elegant, as the *Ἀνδροπαις* of Æschylus. The word has been differently written *hobi-dehoy*, *hobbityhoy*, *hobbledehoy*; and we frequently abridge it to *hobbety*. Tusser writes it *Sir Hobard de Hoy*; but he obviously means to be jocular, and to raise a low and familiar term, and by something like a Christian name, ludicrously to dub his lout a knight. Todd, however, seems to suppose him in sober earnest, and gives it as the proper word. After all, Mr. Wilbraham may be thought to have hit upon a satisfactory formation of the word without going so far for it. *Hobby* was an ancient familiar form of the Christian name *Robert*,

about equivalent to our modern *Robin*. *Hoyden* was in O. E. masc. as well as fæm. v. T. J. *Hoyt* was a north country form of it. Our word then will be Robin the hoyden, or hoyt. So far Mr. W. It may be added, that, by a metathesis in the last word, we come immediately to *hobbite-hoy*.

HOBBLE, *s.* doubt and uncertainty; a scrape. Belg. *hobble*, nodus. BR.

HOBBLES, *s. pl.* roughness on a road or path, which causes passengers to hobble in their gait.

HOBBLY, *adj.* rough; uneven; full of *hobbles*. If the surface be also wet, it is not *hobbly* but *haggy*. BR.

HOBBLE-DE-POISE, *adj.*

1. Evenly balanced, so that any slight wavering is immediately recovered. If we had rocking-stones in our country, we should describe them among ourselves, as standing exactly *hobble-de-poise*.

2. Metaph. wavering in mind; unable to come to a determination.

HOBBY, *s.* a small horse. It is observable that Johnson has not given, nor Todd supplied, the sense in which we and others use this word, which is synonymous with poney. It is so used by Ben Jonson. Fr. *hobin*.

HOBBY-LANTHORN, *s.* a will-o'-the-wisp; from its motion, as if it were a lantern ambling and curvetting on the back of a *hobby*.

HOCS AND HOES, *s. pl.* the feet and leg bones of swine. PR. makes *houghs*, legs and thighs. With us, the thigh is certainly not included. The DICTT. define *hough*, the joint of the hind leg. If so, the *hock* may be that of the fore leg. But such a dis-

tion is not made. Both the words seem to be from A. s. *ho* or *hoh*, calx pedis.

HOD, *s.* a machine, generally made of wood, for conveyance of mortar, bricks, coals, or other coarse and rough substances; made open at one end for convenience of throwing them out. Its shape suggests its origin from A. s. *hod*, cucullus.

HODDING-SPADE, *s.* a sort of spade principally used in the fens, so shaped as to take up a considerable portion of earth entire, somewhat like a *hod*.

HODDY, *adj.* pretty well in health and spirits; in tolerably good case. May it not be a corruption of *hardy*? GR.

HOGGET, **HOG**, *s.* a sheep a year old, after its first shearing. N. Fr. *hogetz*, id. GR. L. SC. BR.

HOG-GRUBBING, *adj.* swinishly sordid; like a hog rooting up earth nuts. GL. A.

HOGLIN, *s.* a homely article of pastry. V. CRAB-LANTHORN.

HOG-OVER-HIGH, *s.* the game of leap-frog; which affords most fun, and best deserves this name, when a clumsy, heavy-sterned lad, is to spring over a tall stripling, who provokingly gives him no advantage.

HOIST, *s.* a cough. A. s. *hwoſta*, tussis. L. SC. W. W. R. *hoast*.

HOIST, *v.* to cough. A. s. *hwoſtan*, tussire. L. SC.

HOIT-A-POIT, *adj.* assuming airs of importance unsuitable to years or station. It is by no means a mere fanciful jingle. *Hoit* in N. E. is an ill-bred youth, and *poit* is in E. A. extremely pert.

HOLD, *v.*

1 Phr. "To *hold* one's own;" to persist in the same

conduct, according to B. Andrewes ; to persist in the same tale. τ.

2 Phr. " to *hold* one tack ; " to keep him close to the point. Fr. tache.

HOLE, *s.* a scrape. To say that a man gets himself into a *hole* by taking a wrong step, is certainly a very simple and natural metaphor. Nay, it is even classical, " what a *hole* you are in ! " " Quanta laboras in charybdi."

HOLL, *s.* a ditch, particularly a dry one. This is the simple form ; we also use the compounds *deke-holl* and *dike-holl*, i. e. a hollow or empty ditch. But in fact they are tautological ; for *holl* alone is pure Saxon. A. s. holh, fossa.

HOLL, *adj.* hollow ; which, in strictness, is a compound of two adjectives. The simple form is Saxon. A. s. hol, cavus.

HOLT, *s.* a small grove or plantation. We have gooseberry-*holts*, cherry-*holts*, nut-*holts*, osier-*holts*, &c. A. s. holt, sylva. CH. P. G. GR.

HOLYMAS, *s.* All Saints-day. Johns. does not give it, nor Todd.

HOME, *adv.* closely ; urgently ; to the extreme point. " The nail is driven *home*." " I pressed him *home*" upon the subject. " The meat is *home* done. L. sc.

HONEY-CRACH, *s.* a small plum, of luscious sweetness, but little flavour.

HOP-CREASE, *s.* the game among boys, more commonly called *hop-scotch*, as it stands in the DICT. It is not so called because it is of Scottish origin. The two words are synonymous. A *scotch* is a cut or *crease*.

HOPPING GILES, s. A common appellation of any one who *limps*. St. Giles was reputed the especial patron of cripples. Churches dedicated to him were always on the boundaries of towns or cities: and near them, or rather in the neighbouring fields, were lazar-houses or hospitals; which have in most instances been pursued, overtaken, and far outstripped by the great increase of buildings. St. Giles's church at Norwich, for instance, is near the site of the ancient gate.

HOPPLE, s. a tether to confine the legs of beasts to prevent their escape, or to make them stand still.

HOPPLE, v. to confine by a hopple. A beast tethered by having a fore foot tied to the opposite foot behind, is said to be *cross-hopples*. The same term is figuratively applied to one who is much thwarted and impeded in his intentions; and to one who is by such causes put out of humour. **BR.**

HOPPLING, adj. tottering; moving weakly; and unsteadily; frequently applied to children. All these words are nearly allied to *hobble*, and have certainly the same origin, q. v.

HORNEN, adj. made of horn. **Ex.** "The *hornen-book*." "A *hornen-spoon*." **JEN.**

HORNS, s. pl. the awns of barley. Though a corruption, not an unmeaning one.

HORN-PIE, s. the lapwing. The long tuft of feathers on its head confers on it the first syllable of this name, and the strong contrast of colour in different parts of its plumage the second.

HORNY, adj. abounding in horns. It is applied to a sample of barley, from which the awns have not

been properly separated in the process of winnowing.

HORSE-MA-GOG, *adj.* boisterously frolicsome. The word *horse* is used in many compounds, like *βov* in Greek, to express bulk, coarseness, or violence, as horse-laugh, horse-play, horse-face, &c. The strange word before us is applied to a clumsy clown playing extravagant gambols, all *agog* for fun! as a dray-horse might be supposed to attempt cantering.

HOSE, *s.* the sheath or spathe of an ear of corn. In long and severe drought at the time when barley should come into the ear, it is apt to "stick in the hose" and perish.

HOT-POT, *s.* a mixture of warmed ale and spirits.
BR.

HOVEN, *part.* swollen. Cattle are *hoven* by eating too much green clover in a moist state, or other flatulent and succulent food. Turnips are *hoven* by rank and rapid growth in a strong wet soil. It seems to be the *part.* of *heave*, without having recourse with JAM. to Dan. *hover*.

HQUNCE, *s.* the ornament of red and yellow worsted spread over the collars of horses in a team. Qu. can it be from O. Fr. *aumuse*, an ornament of fur?
R. S. E. C.

HQUSE, *s.* the family sitting room, as distinguished from the other apartments. GR.

HOUSE, *v.* to grow thick and compact as corn does. If this have any relation to a house at all, it must be to the roof.

HQUSS, *s.* a contemptuous name for feet; as being.

like those of a beast's hoofs. The word is used by Dryden, and quoted by Johns. "Spread on his back the *houss* and trappings of a bear." It is interpreted *housings*, and derived from Fr. *houses*, or *houseraux*. Cotgr. explains those words "armour for legs and feet." Now, when the skins of beasts are used as trappings to cover a military saddle, it is usual to leave the skin of the legs with the feet hanging down on each side. So "trappings and *houss*" might be meant to express the whole spoil of the animal. The occurrence of this very strange and unusual word in Dryden 150 years ago, and its actual existence in present usage, may possibly throw some light on each other, such as it is, and whatever it may be worth. But after all it may be another derivative of A. s. *hos*, calx pedis.

HUCKLES, *s. pl.* the hips. Johns. has both *huckle* and *huckle-bone*; but with authorities from which it may be inferred that they are obsolete; which they by no means are.

HUDDERIN, *s.* a well-grown lad; much the same as a *hobbity*, *q. v.* If a Suffolk farmer (in East Suffolk at least) be asked how many male servants he keeps, his answer may probably be, "Two men and a *hudderin*." The word occurs in JAM. as an adj. and is interpreted "flabby; slovenly; ugly, &c." There is also *hatherin*, "a stupid fellow." He gives an etymon which seems to imply that his *hatherin* is moreover pot-bellied: BR. gives a *huth-erihin* lad, as "a ragged youth." None of all this is necessarily applicable to our East Anglian *hudderin*. He may be, and often is, a handsome, well-

formed, and decently clothed lad. In process of time, and by license of usage, he may have run away from his derivation, though the connexion in name remains. Teut *hayderen*, uber distentum habere.

HUFF, *s.* a dry, scurfy, or scaly incrustation on the skin.

HUFF, *v.* to scold; rate; or take to task. In o. e. a *huff-cap* is a swaggering blade.

HUGGY-ME-CLOSE, *s.* the clavicle of a fowl; more commonly called the merry-thought. It has probably this name from its close adhesion to the sternum.

HULK, *s.*

1. A lout; a lubber; one, who, in vulgar phrase, seems to have "more guts than brains."
2. A gross overgrown fat fellow. SH. 2. Hen. IV. "The *hulk* Sir John." BR.

HULK, *v.*

1. To pull out the entrails of a hare or rabbit. It does not appear to be applied to the exenteration of any other animal.
2. It is said of a lazy lout, who has nothing to do, and desires to have nothing, that he goes *hulking* about from place to place, seemingly watching for opportunities to pilfer.

HULL, *v.* to throw. It is pretty plainly a corruption of *hurl*, and is therefore not to be spelled *holl*, as PE. has it; who was perhaps deceived by sound.

W. C.

HULLUP, *v.*

1. To vomit.

2. To put into the mountebank's lottery, which is done by tying up a shilling in the corner of a pocket-handkerchief, and *hulling* it on the stage.

HULLUP, *s.* the operation of an emetic.

HULVER, *s.* holly. CH. calls it *kulfere*; which suggests the probability of a derivation to which it is well entitled by its perennial beauty and long duration. A. S. *hold*, fidus, and *fera*, socius. T. GR.

HULVER-HEADED, *adj.* stupid; muddled; confused; as if the head were enveloped in a *hulver* bush.

HUME, *s.* a hymn. This word is curiously puzzling. It is in very common use. Can it have descended to us, through so many ages, by oral tradition, from the very ancient connexion of Gothic with Greek?

HUMMER, *v.* to begin to neigh, according to R. S. E. C. and GR.; but in our use, it means the gentle and pleasing sound which a horse utters when he hears the corn shaken in the sieve, or when he perceives the approach of his companion, or groom.

HUMP, *s.* a contemptible quantity; a poor pittance.

HUMPTY, *adj.* hunch-backed.

HUNCH, *s.* a thick slice, or rather lump of food; such, for instance, as might be thrown to a dog; and therefore why not from O. Fr. *hancher*, to snap at?

HUNCH, *s.* a lift, or shove. "Give me a *hunch*, Tom," said an elderly East Anglian matron, somewhat corpulent, to her stout footman, who stood grinning behind her, while she was endeavouring to climb into her carriage.

HUNCH, *v.* to shove ; to heave up.

HUNCH-WEATHER, *s.* cold weather, which makes men hunch up their shoulders, and animals contract their limbs, and look as if they were hunch-backed.

HUNGER-POISONED, *adj.* famished ; unhealthy from want of sufficient nourishment. Ex. "A poor star-naked, *hunger-poisoned* creature!" said of a ragged and emaciated vagrant, by the constable who brought her before the magistrate. In Suffolk, *hunger-poison* is applied solely to misers.

HURRY, *s.* a small load of corn or hay got up in haste, from apprehension of rain.

HUTKIN, *s.* a case or sheathe for a sore finger. Otherwise, and more generally called, a *cot*. Both the words are of the same obvious meaning ; but ours is the better, being a dimin.

I. & J.

JADE, *s.* a horse. We do not always use it in a contemptuous sense, as it is in general use, and in the *DICTIONARY* ; indeed far from it. A clown will sometimes call a fine hunter, "a brave *jade*." Cart horses are very commonly called so, though they be by no means despicable. Nay, even fine teams of Suffolk punches. This is no abuse invented by us ; it is genuine *O. E.* From several passages in *SH.* it appears that he used the word *jade* in this latitude. In *Hen. V.* we find a panegyric on a noble war-horse. "He is indeed a horse, and all other *jades* you may call beasts." He was therefore a *jade*, though a noble animal.

JAG, *s.* an indefinite quantity, but less than a load, of hay or corn in the straw. R N. C. W. C.

JAMB, *s.* a mass of masonry in a building, or of stone or other mineral in a quarry or pit, standing upright, and more or less distinct from neighbouring or adjoining parts. This, at least, is the sense in which we use the word. Johns. defines it, "any supporter on either side, as the posts of a door." It is certain that one *jamb* does not always imply or require another; inasmuch as some things stand as well on one leg as on two. And, as for door-posts, what builder would not laugh at hearing them called *jamb*s? A *jamb* in building certainly supports the floor or whatever else rests upon it. A *jamb* in a quarry, which it is the business of the miner to take away, cannot have much more than itself to support; often a very thin stratum of earth only, at the top of it. This natural *jamb* is in T. J. called a *jam*. Why the difference? It is said to be the language of the lead-miners in Mendip. So it is of the lime-burners in Norfolk. The authorities are pretty equal. They pronounce *jamb* as if it were written *jam*. The natural and artificial *jamb*s bear sufficient resemblance to each other to be entitled to the same name, which is Fr. *jambe*.

JAMMOCK, *v.* to beat, squeeze, crush, pummel, or trample into a soft mass. Intens. of *jam*.

JAMMOCK, *s.* a soft, pulpy substance.

JASEY, *s.* a contemptuous name for a wig, or even a bushy head of hair, as if the one were actually, and the other apparently, made of *Jersey* yarn, of which this word is the common corrupt pronunciation.

JATTER, *v.* to split into shivers. A variety, scarcely to be called corruption, of *shatter*.

ICE-BONE, *s.* a part of the rump of beef. Although it be provincial now, it is nearer to the truth than either *edge-bone* or *aitch-bone*, which have been offered instead of it. The Gr. *ισχυον* had passed into the gothic, and thence in due progression to us. Belg. *isch-bean*. **JAM**.

ICHON, *pron.* each on. Ex. "*Ichon on'em.*" L. sc.

JEROBOAM, *s.* a capacious bowl or goblet; otherwise, and more generally, called a *Joram*. These are recorded as two very wicked kings; and the former of them is said to have "made Israel to sin." It does not, however, distinctly appear that either of them was a drunkard, and made drunkenness a fashionable vice among his subjects. It must have been supposed at least, to make a part of their generally profligate characters. Otherwise, it seems impossible to account for giving their royal names to huge drinking vessels. The contents of the *Jeroboam*, the nut-brown ale, with toast and sugar and spice, is sometimes called by the same name.

JET, *s.* a very large ladle to empty a cistern. Fr. *jetter*.

JIB, *v.* to start suddenly and violently aside, generally from the collar; and to refuse to draw, or to go forward. It is said of a horse metaphorically from the jibbing of a sail; which is in the **DICTR**.

JIB, *s.* the under-lip. Of a whimpering child it is said "he hangs his *jib*."

JIBBET, *v.* To put a toad or a hedge-hog to a cruel death, by placing it on one end of a balanced plank, and striking the other smartly, so as to send the

poor animal high into the air, and of course to kill it by the fall. In some counties it is called *fillip-ping*; and is what Falstaff means when he says "Fillip me with a three-man beetle." Our word is doubtless from *jib*, signifying the sudden shifting of a sail from one side of the mast to the other, which has been sometimes as speedily destructive as the *jibbetting* to the toad.

JIBBY, *s.* a frisky, gadding, flaunting wench, full of fantastical and affected airs, and dressed in flashy finery.

JIBBY-HORSE, *s.* a showman's horse decorated with particoloured trappings, plumes, streamers, &c. It is sometimes transferred to a human subject.

JIGGS, *s. pl.* small dregs, or sediment, as of a pot of coffee, or a bottle of physic. *M. s.*

JIG-BY-JOWL. *Phr.* close together. Apparently a corruption of a phrase more general, "*cheek-by-jowl*." But *JUN.* admits, and we use it.

JILL-HOOTER, **JILLY-HOOTER**, *s.* an owl. *Jill* is a female name, formerly very common. *Madge* is another familiar appellation of the same animal. *Billy-wix* is a third, which should belong to the male bird; but it does not appear that difference of sex is at all regarded. The best of all is that now before us. It is exactly *A. s. jil*, noctua; *M. s. w. c.* (Gill.)

JIM, *s.* a machine with two wheels, for carrying timber; otherwise, and in Norfolk most frequently, called a *Jill*. The *drug*, *q. v.* is in many parts called a *timber-jack*. In various combinations, *Jack* is employed in hard and servile work. In this

case, he is understood to be the strongest fellow. *Jim*, though not so sturdy, is still able to carry very considerable weight; but it is very improper that *Jill*, being a female, should be put to such hard work at all.

ILL-CONDITIONED, *adj.* ill tempered. *V.* CONDITION.

IMITATE, *v.* to attempt; to endeavour. *Ex.* A child, or a sick person "*imitated* to walk," or to do something else, which he proves unable to accomplish.

INDER, *s.* a great number or quantity of valuable things. *Ex.* "He is worth an *inder* of money;" sometimes an ocean. It can be nothing but a mispronunciation of *India*.

INDIFFERENT, *adj.* not merely middling, neuter, neither good nor bad, but positively bad. This seems to coincide, or nearly so, with the fifth sense in *T. J.* which is said to be colloquial and improper. It might safely have been called nonsensical. But we improve it in nonsense. We give degrees of this *indifferency*, which should seem to be a fixed thing. *Ex.* "Mr. A. looks but *indifferently*," meaning that he looks ill. "It was rather an *indifferent* match for Miss B.;" that is, it was an unsuitable one. "Mr. C. had very *indifferent* success in his attempt;" that is, he was totally disappointed. But this improvement is not peculiarly our own. The usage is most improper, but still, perhaps, pretty generally colloquial.

INDOOR-SERVANT, *s.* a servant in the country who is entirely within doors, not in the field, garden, &c.

INION, *s.* an onion. This is no corruption. The Fr. word *oignon*, from which both the words come, affords equal authority for each. Most people take the Fr. word as if it were *ognon* (dropping the *i*), we as if it were *ignon* (dropping the *o*). It is a fair option. We make our's; let others chuse otherwise, if it seem good to them. One word is as near the original as the other. The L. sc. *ingan*, certainly is a corruption. JEN.

INNOCENT, *adj.* silly. "An *innocent* man" (without any other *adj.* or *adv.* to qualify the sense) is an extremely common expression for a silly fellow. SH. uses the word in the same sense; "This dumb *innocent*." All's Well, &c. It is very near the Gr. *ἐνθης* in primary, and in perverted sense.

INTRUST, *s.* interest of money. The idea of trust naturally occurs on this occasion. Those who use this word, know very distinctly what they mean; and it would not be easy to make them conceive that they speak corruptly.

INWARD-MAID, *s.* the house-maid in a farm-house, who has no work in the dairy, &c.

INWARDS, *s. pl.* intestines. SH. 2 Hen. IV. "From the *inwards* to the parts extreme." A. S. *innothra*, viscera.

JOAN'S SILVER PIN, *s.* a single article of finery, produced occasionally, and ostentatiously among dirt and sluttiness.

IRON-SIDED, *adj.* hardy; rough; unmanageable. A boy who fears nobody, and plays all sorts of mischievous tricks, is called an *iron-sided* dog.

JOB, v. (pronounced like fob.)

1. To strike with a pointed instrument.
2. To peck with a sharp and strong beak. Johnson inserts it without any note of its provincial character, but quotes authorities which particularly entitle it to a place here, L'Estrange and Tusser.

JOGGER, JOGGLE, v. to shake. L. sc. *schoggle*.
BR. Teut. *schochelen*, concussare SK.

JOGGING, s. a protuberance in sawn wood, probably where the saw was *joggled* and thrown out of the line, by a knot or some accident.

JORAM, s. BR. & C. *V. JEROBOAM*.

JOSEPH, s. a very old fashioned riding coat for women, scarcely now to be seen or heard of.

JOSS, JOSTLE, v. to make room, by standing or sitting close.

JOSTLING-BLOCK, JOSSING-BLOCK, s. a horse-block ; to which the horse must be made to *joss* as close as possible, and to stand quite still for the convenience of mounting. In the Reve's Tale, in CH. the two scholars call to their runaway horse, "*jossa!*" which Mr. Tyrwhit interprets, "come hither!" from the Fr. *ça*. Had he been an East Angle, he must have thought the more likely meaning was "stand still!" The derivation of *jostle*, and no doubt the true one, from its importing very close approach, is Fr. *jouster*.

JOT, adv. plump ; downright. Ex. "He came down *jot* upon his rump."

JOT, JOTTER, v. to jolt roughly. The latter, indeed, is somewhat stronger than the former, and a sort of frequentative.

JOT, JOT-CART, s. Is properly a cart of which the body is set flat, or *jot*, on the axle, in immediate contact, without any thing to give it play. It is used, however, with some latitude, for any cart of very rough motion.

JOT-GUT, s. the intestinum rectum, in which the largest and finest hog's puddings are made.

JOTTEE, s. a delicate dimin. or softening of *jot*, or *jot-cart*, meaning a vehicle approaching to a gig, or park chair, as nearly as the statutable price of a taxed cart will admit.

JOUNCE, f. to bounce, thump, and jolt, as rough riders are wont to do. It is the same as the o. *z.* *jaunce* by a common change of diphthongs, as *thow* for *thaw*, *strow* for *straw*, &c. *SH.* Richard II. "Spurgalled and tired by *jauncing* Bolingbroke."

JOURNEY, s. the time a man is at plough, generally about six hours. Properly it means a day's work. Sometimes, however, the plough is at work nine hours, and then two *journeys* in the day are taken; which is in fact a contradiction in terms, for it is certainly, *Fr. journée.* *L. sc.*

JOWER, v. to exhaust with fatigue, as from a day's labour, or travel. *Ex.* "She came home right-on *jowered* out."

JOWL, v. to peck furiously, or strike hard with a pointless instrument. To strike with a sharp one is to *job*, q. v. In *SH.* Hamlet, the grave-digger *jowls* a scull with his spade. *BR.*

JUB, s. the slow heavy trot of a sluggish horse. *M. s.*

JUG, v. to squat, and nestle close together, as partridges at night.

JULK, *v.* to give a sound like liquor shaken in a cask not quite full. Otherwise *yulk*. No doubt a word fabricated from sound.

JUM, *s.* a sudden jolt or concussion, from encountering an obstacle unnoticed; for instance, driving a carriage against a large stone, or *taking a post* in brisk motion. W. W. R.

K.

KAMP, *v.* Sir Thomas Browne. *V. CAMP.*

KEDGE, *adj.* brisk; active. This is Sir Thomas Browne's spelling. We pronounce it *kidge*, and apply it exclusively, or nearly so, to hale and cheerful old persons. In R. N. C. the word *cadge* has the same meaning. It is by mere change of vowels *cadge*, *kedge*, *kidge*. Dan. *kand*, lascivus. L. sc. *kedgie* and *caigie*.

KEEP, *v.*

1. To associate; to keep company with. SH. Two Gent. of Verona, "these banished men that I have *kept* withall." If we use the whole phrase "*keep company*," we mean courtship, paying and receiving addresses as lovers. SH. Othello, "who *keeps* her company."

2. To lodge; to keep residence, or abode. For this we have academical authority. Inquire of any body you meet in the court of a college at Cambridge your way to Mr. A's room, you will be told that he *keeps* on such a staircase, up so many pair of stairs, door to the right or left.

KEEP, *s.* food for cattle. Ex. "I am short of *keep* for my cows." There are four senses of this subst. in T. J. but this is not among them.

KEEPING-ROOM, *s.* the general sitting-room of the family, the common parlour.

KELL, *s.* the omentum or cawl of a slaughtered beast.

By change of vowels, few steps from *cawl*, and much nearer to the Saxon. A. S. *kylle*, ater. PR. PA. O. V. *kall*.

KELTER, *s.* condition; order. SK. seems to think it not unlikely to be a corruption of *culture*. It may be so, but in our use, it does not seem necessarily to include the idea of management, and to mean simply condition, good or bad. Ex. "My farm is in pretty good *kelter*." "The mauter have slumped into the slush, and is in a nasty forlorn *kelter*." Can it be from Dan. *kilter*, cingo? BR.

KELTER, *v.* applied to a plough; which is said to *kelter* well or ill, as it works in a slope or curvature. This seems to suit the conjectured etymon.

KERNEL, *s.* a grain. Ex. "A *kernel* of wheat;" "a *kernel* of salt."

KETT, *s.* carrion. There is an adj. from it in R. N. C.

"A *ketty* cur," is a nasty, stinking fellow. Our word includes any kind of garbage, and is probably a derivative of Isl. *kaet*, caro. L. SC. BR. W. C.

KETT-POLE, *s.* a carrion-pole.

KEY-BEER, *s.* beer of the better sort, kept under lock and key; or having a lock-cock in the cask.

KIBBAGE, *s.* small refuse and rubbish; riff-raff.

KICK, *v.*

1. Phr. "To *kick* the bucket;" to die. The meaning

may be, that the sick, lying on the very brink of the grave, as if on that of a well or a mine, kicks away the means of safe descent and falls headlong.

2. Phr. "To *kick* stiff;" to expire. To make the last struggle in the mortal strife.

These are phrases fit only for the mouths of rude unfeeling boors.

KICK, *s.* a novelty ; a dash. It seems an abbreviation of kick-shaw, or *kic-shoe*, *q. v.* in T. J. It is L. sc. but the etymon proposed by JAM. can be nothing to the purpose. It is also in BR.

KICKEL, *s.* a sort of flat cake with sugar and currants strewn on the top. M. s. A. s. *cicele*, crustula.

KICKY, *adj.* shewy. L. sc.

KIDDER, **KIDGER**, *s.* one who buys up fowls, eggs, pork, &c. at farm-houses, or rears them himself, and carries them to market. He is the same person with Ray's *cadger* ; and, including the idea of alertness and activity, is connected with our word *kedge*, *q. v.* *Kiddier* seems to be nothing but an affected variation, meant for a refinement. BR. *cadger* ; and he gives as an etymon Teut. *Ketzen*, *discurrere*.

KIDDLE, *v.*

1. To embrace, caress, fondle. A more delicate form of *cuddle*, *q. v.*
 2. Synonymous with *higgle* in the second sense, *q. v.*
- KILLER**, *s.* a shallow tub, particularly a wash tub. It has nothing to do with *keeler*, *q. d. cooler* ; but comes to us immediately from A. s. *kylle*, *cadus*.
- KILVER**, *s.* a mincing pronunciation of *culver*, *q. v.*

M. s.

KINDIFUL, *adj.* kindly ; in the sense which that

word bears in the Litany, the "*kindly* fruits of the earth;" the fruits in their several *kinds*. The word has this clear reference to the Mosaic account of the Creation in our authorised version, where the various parts of the animal and vegetable world are said to have been "created after their *kinds*." This seems to have escaped Johns. who, as synonyms of *kindly*, gives "natural, fit, proper," by no means conveying its full import. Our word *kindiful* may be taken as one instance, (and many others may be found in this work,) perhaps a licentious instance, of the change of terminations of adjectives, some of which may be dialectical variations of general words. Ex. "Men and women, horses and asses, sheep and oxen, and all *kindiful* things," i. e. things of every kind. "Neither chair, nor table, nor bed, nor no *kindiful* thing," i. e. nothing of any kind. *Kindly*, in a second sense, means benevolent, well disposed, friendly. Ex. "Oh, Mr. A. is a *kindly* man."

KIND O', Phr. In a manner, as it were; a sort of qualifying expression; often, as if on recollection of having gone too far, thrown in at the end of the sentence or clause; but its place is of no importance; it makes equally good grammar any where. Ex. "He fared *kind o'* sorry to hear it." "She made game on it, *kind o'*." It was a kind of sorrow or of merriment which was shewn.

KINER, *s.* a flannel wrapper used by nurses for infant children, to cover a certain part of their bodies.

A. *s. cine*, rima.

KING-HARRY, *s.* a popular name of two common singing birds.

1. King Harry Redcap, is the gold-finch, the *Fringilla carduelis*, Lin.

2. King Harry Blackcap, is the bird which is commonly called simply the blackcap, *Motacilla atricapilla*, Lin.

KINK, *s.* an entanglement in a skein, putting an end to winding till it be patiently unravelled. This is our only application of this substantive, but it has another, of which a short mention may illustrate our use of the verb belonging to it. *FE.* gives *kink-haust* (our *hoist*) for a violent cold and cough. *A. s.* *kin* is but another form of *chin*, this must be what is commonly called the *chin* cough, in which children often seem in imminent danger of suffocation, and are long before they recover their breath, either gradually, or by violent effort. *Kink-host* is in *L. sc.* the whooping-cough. *JAM.*

KINK, *v.*

1. To be entangled; set fast; or stopped. The thread or yarn *kinks* in winding. Bailey uses the same verb to express the stoppage of breath in children in violent fits of crying or coughing; *kink*, to labour for breath is also in *BR.* and *JAM.* from Teut. *kincken*, difficulter spirare.

2. To be disentangled, to be set free. This is not a solitary instance of the same word being made to express opposite or correlative ideas. But we are concerned with no other at present. We use it in both senses, of stoppage and of relief. Of the first an instance has been given; of the second, we have

more than one equally common. In an alarming fit of sickness, whether cough or any thing else, when slight but progressive symptoms of amendment appear, it is prognosticated, that the patient "will *kink* up again." When the fire seems extinct, a latent spark may remain, which will "*kink* up," not by stirring or blowing the coals, but by laying the poker over them, and setting up the fire-shovel in front, in other words, by having patience with it.

KINSMAN, KINSWOMAN, s. not a relation in general, but a *Cousin German* in particular. Ex. "What relation is Tom Smith to you, good woman?" "He in my *kinsman*, Sir." Sometimes, indeed, it is, "my own cousin." In Suffolk there is a different usage of the word. There, a nephew is generally called "*kinsman*."

KIPLIN, s. the palates, gullets, sounds, or other perishable parts of the cod-fish, cured separately from the body, which they would taint and putrify. The salmon in its lean and effete state, after spawning is called *kipper*, a word of which our etymologists can make nothing, and give it up in despair. Might it not, however, be pretty fairly deduced from Belg. *kipper*, ova excludere, a process which the *kippen* has lately performed? Whatever may have produced identity of name in things apparently very remote, it is observable that the roots of *Bunium bulbocastarum* and *flexuosum*, Lin. are called *kipper-nuts*, and sk. is disposed to derive the name from A. s. *cepe*, cæpe. Skinner is certainly the least fanciful and adventurous of our

etymologists. And would it be thought too adventurous not only to admit his derivation, but to conjecture that this community of names of things, dissimilar and remote, may have arisen from their having been brought close together ; from the salmon in its tasteless state, and the insipid parts of the cod, having been dressed with onions, to furnish them with a flavour ?

KIPPLE, *s.* a couple. "A *kipple* of rabbits." The words are equivalent and different in the original, as well as in the derived language. Teut. *kuppel*, vel *kippel*.

KIRTLE, *s.* an outer petticoat to protect the other garments from dust, &c. in riding. Such was our sense of the word, which is scarcely, if ever, heard of now that pillions are so gone out of use. It was commonly made of slight materials, to answer the purpose for which it was intended. In SH. and contemporary writers, it seems to mean a garment of more importance ; or Falstaff's offer to present Mistress Doll with a *kirtle* of whatever stuff she chose, must have been a very paltry one.

KISK, *s.* any thing perfectly dry and husky, It seems a metath. of *kex*, O. E. and V. D. a dry stalk fit only for kindling fires. Perhaps from Isl. *quec*, fomes.

KISKY, *adj.* dry ; juiceless ; husky.

KISS-ME-AT-THE-GARDEN-GATE, *s.* a fanciful, yet rather a pretty name of the several beautiful varieties of the garden pansy, or *Viola tricolor*. Lin.

KIT, s.

1. A wooden utensil, with two handles, and a cover fitted in between them, as a *flour-kit*, a *salt-kit*, &c. Sometimes, but less properly, called a *kid*. w. w. r. BR. w. c. But a *salmon-kit*, which BR. instances has no handles.
2. A young cat. A dimin. by change of the vowel. *Kitten* is property its pl. n. but has now generally superseded *kit* in the singular.
3. A collection or assemblage. Ex. "I found the whole *kit* of them together;" the whole gang or band. JEN. W. C. BR.

It may be said, indeed, that these are not so properly our word in three senses, as three words from three separate sources. The first may be from A. s. *kitte*, uter; the second has been explained; and the third may very fairly come from A. s. *kyth*, cognatio.

KIT-CAT, s. a game played by three or more players, v. m. s. The *cat* is shaped like a double cone.

KIT-CAT-ROLL, s. a bellied roller for land; the horse going in the furrow, and the roller acting on the sloping surface of the ridge on each side.

KITLING, s. a young cat. A super or rather sub-diminutive; a dimin. of a dimin. *Catling* might have been enough. However, JAM. BR. and w. c. all give it. And in PR. PA. it is rendered *catellus*, probably meant for a dim. not of *canis* but of *catus*.

KITTLE, v. to tickle. BR.

KITTLE, KITTLISH, adj. ticklish, which is a metathesis. Ours are the original and proper words, let innovators say what they may. A. s. *kittelan*, titillare. BR.

KITTY-WITCH, *s.*

1. A small species of cancer on our coasts, with fringed claws. An unwelcome intruder into enclosed baths.
2. A species of sea-fowl; probably more than one; certainly including that which is called by Pennant the *kitty-wake*.
3. A female spectre; arrayed in white, of course. The plumage of sea birds contains, in almost all instances, a large proportion of pure and brilliant white.
4. A woman dressed in a grotesque and frightful manner; otherwise called a *kitch-witch*, probably for the sake of a jingle. It was customary, many years ago, at Yarmouth, for women of the lowest order, to go in troops from house to house to levy contributions, at some season of the year, and on some pretence, which nobody now seems to recollect, having men's shirts over their own apparel, and their faces smeared with blood. These hideous beldams have long discontinued their perambulations; but in memory of them, one of the many rows in that town is called *Kitty-witch* row.

KIVER, *v.* to cover. CH. has *kevere*. *Cover* and *kever* seem analagous to *move* and *meve*. The compounds *recover* and *discover* suffer the same change.

KIVER, *s.* a cover.

KNACKER, *s.* a saddler and harness-maker. Johns. has it in two senses. The first is a "maker of small works," for which he quotes Mortimer. But as the knacker is mentioned by a farmer with the plough-wright and smith, he was certainly the same artificer whom we mean by that name, and not a

maker of knick-knacks. The second sense is a rope-maker. This is commonly, if not always, a part of the trade of our *knacker*. The great lexicographer could never have heard the word in living use. Todd adds the word *nacker*, from Ray and Grose (in our sense, indeed, but wrong spelled), supposing it another word. It is, however, one and the same, and was most likely formed from the perpetual sound of light hammers. T. has it of course, Teut. *knacken*, sonare.

KNACKER'S BRANDY, *s.* a sound strappado!

There is an ingenious equivoue in this ludicrous term. Lazy apprentices may be warmed and stimulated by this process, as by a cordial dram; or it is extremely likely, if well laid on, to leave marks like those of a brand.

KNAP-KNEES, *s. pl.* knock-knees. Knap is a gentle knock.

KNOBBLE-TREE, *s.* the head. It is of course implied that the head is wooden; for in O. E. *tree* was exactly synonymous with wood, and *treen* with wooden. It is an unseemly word, attributing no more dignity to the human head than to the axle-tree of a cart, or the pundle-tree of a plough.

KNOCK, *v.* to stir or to work briskly. Ex. "He came *knocking* along the road in a great hurry." This would be said, whether the traveller were on foot, on horseback, or driving a carriage. "*Knock away my lads!*" is an encouragement to exertion, whether knocking be literally concerned in the business or not. SH. Henry VIII. "Let the music *knock* it;" equivalent to "Let the fiddlers *knock* away." The name of the horse-courser in B. JON.

Bartholomew Fair is *knockum*. Hence, no doubt, is the phrase *knocked-up*, for exhausted with the fatigue of any exertion.

KNOLL, *v.* to toll the bell for a funeral; from the subst. *knell*. SH. Macbeth, "His *knell* is *knolled*."

KNOPPIT, *s.* a little clod; or, indeed, a small lump of almost any thing. Dimin. of *knop* or *knob*.

KNOW, *s.* knowledge. Ex. "Poor fellow! he has but little *know*."

KNOW-NOTHING, *adj.* utterly ignorant. Ex. "A poor *know-nothing* creature!" for a wretched ignoramus.

KNUB, *s.* a knob.

KNUBBLE, *s.* a small knob, as at the end of a walking-stick, a poker, the handle of a door, &c.

KNUBBLE, *v.* to handle clumsily; using thumbs and knuckles, as in kneading dough.

L.

LACE, *v.* to beat. In L. sc. and N. E. it still means also to mix with spirits. JAM. BR.

LACED-MUTTON, *s.* a prostitute. It is an old word, not yet totally out of use, though much less common than in the time of Shakspeare. The word *mutton*, alone, at that time appears to have signified the same thing; so it does among us, and in the North. BR. But what are we to make of the epithet prefixed to it? *Laced* may possibly mean battered. V. LACE. About the beginning of the last Century, it appears that *lace* was a sort

of cant name for spirits. If it was so a century earlier, it might be meant that the strumpet was drunk or likely to be so. Or, in that golden age of puns and quibbles, it might be used in quaint allusion to the dressing of the meat. From the female portraits of that time, it appears that tight *lacing* was much in fashion, and a great deal of *lace* was worn. Or, after all, it might be derived, and not inappositely, from A. S. *læcan*, prehendere.

LADLE, v. to dawdle. Fr. *lasdaller*.

LAD'S-LOVE, s. the herb southern-wood, *Artemisia abrotanum*, Lin. Boy's-love. JEN.

LAGARAG, s. lazy fellow who will do no more work than he is forced to. An expressive word. Nothing is so likely as that *laziness* should bring a man to rags. M. S.

LALDRUM, s. an egregious simpleton. It was defined by a merry fellow, who was no great philologist, "a fool and a half." Certainly it implies something more than an ordinary, every-day fool. May it be *loll-drone*?

LALL, v. to lounge; to loiter. Perhaps a contraction of *ladle*, q. v. Perhaps another form of *loll*.

LALL, s. a lounge, with the idea of silliness annexed. Perhaps a familiar abbreviation of *laldrum*.

LAM, v. to beat unmercifully. O. E. Beaumont and Fletcher. Certainly connected in sense with *lame*, and so from A. S. *lam*, claudus. W. C.

LAMB-PIE, s. a ludicrous cant term for beating, and therefore from *lam*.

LAMB-STORMS, s. stormy weather, near the vernal equinox; often hurtful to the new yeaned lambs.

LAMMOCK, *v.* to lounge with such an excess of laziness as if it were actual lameness.

LAMPER-EEL, *s.* the lamprey. In *L. sc.* by farther corruption it is *ramper-eel*.

LAND-WHIN, *s.* the rest-harrow, *Ononis spinosa*, *Lin.*

It probably has its name from spreading itself obstinately over the surface of the *land*, sometimes to considerable extent; whereas the prickly plant, which is more generally called *whin* (*ulex*), is, or may easily be, confined to borders or hedges. The name *rest-harrow* seems to have the same import.

LANGLE, *v.* to saunter slowly, as if it were difficult to advance one foot before the other. In *L. sc.* a *langle* is a tether, and *JAM.* gives a derivation which exactly suits our word. *Sui.-G.* *lanya*, retardare.

LANNER, **LANYER**, *s.* the lash of a whip. *CH.* has *lainere*. *GL. A.* explains it by small ropes. In *Suffolk*, "the *lanner*" is only used for the leathern lash, and does not include the whip-cord attached to it. *Fr.* *lanière*.

LAP, *s.* thin broth or porridge; weak tea, &c. "Poor *lap!*" It cannot be properly called a cant word, as it is in *N. G.* It is a regular word enough, contemptuously importing that the mixture is fitter to be served to the dogs and cats, than to the human members of the family.

LAP-SIDED, *adj.* deformed on one side; as if the protuberance were caused by wrapping or *lapping* folds of cloth over the part. **HUMPTY**, *q. v.* refers only to the back.

LARGESS, *s.* a gift to reapers in harvest. When they have received it, they shout thrice, the words

"halloo *largess*;" an obvious corruption of the words, "*à la largesse*," a very ancient form of soliciting bounty from the great; not of thanking them for it. But whatever may be the irregularity in performing the ceremony, or the ignorance of the performers, it is unquestionably a remnant of high feudal antiquity. It is called "hallooing a *largess*," and is generally a harsh and discordant yell, but might be much otherwise, if the fellows had good ears and tuneable voices. Indeed, sometimes, when mellowed by distance, it may be reckoned among pleasing "rural sounds."

LARRUP, *v.* to beat. If the derivation here proposed be admitted (and it seems fairly admissible), we have in this word an exact Saxon synonym to the very common word of the same import, to *lick*. **JEN.** *lirrop*, who takes it for a corruption of *lee-rope*. **A. S.** *larrian*, lambere.

LASH, **LASHY**, *adj.* soft and watery, as applied to fruits, &c. which ought to be juicy, indeed, but full of flavour. **Fr.** *lache*.

LASH-EGG, *s.* an egg without a full formed shell; covered only with a tough film.

LATCH, *v.* to catch what falls. **B. A.** **BR.** Also, to alight. **Ex.** "He will always *latch* on his legs."

LATCH-ON, *s.* to put more water on the mash when the first wort has run off. **W. W. R.** *lech-on*.

LATCH-PAN, *s.* the pan placed under the joint while it is roasting, to *latch* the dripping.

LATTEN, *s.* We do not mean any mixed metal, but give the name to common tin-plate. So does **BR.**

LATTER, *s.* the number of eggs a hen lays before she

begins to sit. L. SC. *lachter*, which is derived by JAM. from Isl. *lag*, which means a layer or stratum. Till I met with this northern word, so like our own, I always supposed the meaning to be, that the hen had laid her *latter* or *last* egg. We say then, that she "lurks to sit," that is, goes into holes and corners to find a fit place. We do not talk of setting her upon her *latter*, but upon a clutch of eggs, generally 13 or 15, but always an odd number, for luck's sake. BR. *lawter*. JEN. *lacter*. Teut. *leghtyd*, tempus quo gallinæ parrunt.

LAUGH-AND-LAY-DOWN, *s.* a childish game at cards, in which the player, who holds a certain combination of cards, lays them down on the table and is supposed to *laugh* at his success in winning the stake. JEN. has, "*lie* down;" which is not done.

LAUNCH, *s.* a long stride (diphth. pron. broad). *Lainch*. BR.

LAUNCH, *v.* to take long strides. Ex. "That long-legg'd fellow comes *launching* along."

LAWND, *s.* a lawn. This word might have been left with gownd, and a few others, in the list of corruptions. But it is by no means a corruption. It deserves a place here as an instance of the correctness with which provincial dialects sometimes retain words in their original and proper form. It is from Fr. *lande*, a level of grass land.

LAY, *s.* a very large pond. Seemingly connected with *lake*, which is A. S. though originally Latin. It may possibly be a quaint conceit to express, by a part of the word, a body of water, of less, though

still of considerable extent. In the central part of Suffolk a coarse old pasture is called a *lay*.

LAY, *v.* to intend; to lay out; to lay a plan. Ex. "I *lay* to plough for turnips to-morrow."

LAYER-OF-WIND, *Phr.* A dead calm, in which the miller cannot grind.

LAYER-OVER, *s.* a gentle term for some instrument of chastisement.

LAY-ON, *v.* to beat. Ex. "I'll *lay on* to you!" O. E. "*Lay on*, Macduff!" SH. Macbeth.

LAZE, *v.* to be lazy. In fact, the adjective seems derived from the verb; not the verb from the adjective. Teut. *lasseu*, *desinere*.

LEA, *s.* forty threads of hemp-yarn.

LEAN-TO, *s.* a pent-house. An addition made to a house behind, or at the end of it, chiefly for domestic offices, of one story or more, lower than the main building, and the roof of it *leaning* against the wall of the house. BR. *To fall*.

LEARN, *v.* to teach. It is observable, that in most, if not in all the European languages, instances may be produced of this confusion of the two verbs, equivalent to these two. V. D. A. *s. laran*, *docere*. B. TR.

LEASTY, *adj.* dull, wet, and dirty; applied to weather.

LEAST-WAYS, *adv.* at least; least-wise.

LEATHER, *v.* to beat; properly with a strap, but it is used without that restriction. JEN. BR.

'LECTION, *s.* in election; in likelihood. Ex. "'Tis *'lection* to rain." The phrase in proper form is very common. O. E.

LEDGE, *s.* a bar of a gate, or stile; of a chair, table, &c.

LED-WILL, *Phr.* An odd ungrammatical one. It means "*led by will*," i. e. by a will-o'-the-whisp, and it is metaphorically applied to one who is in any way puzzled and bewildered by following false lights.

LEP, LEPE, *s.* a large deep basket. *A. s.* *læp*, *corbis*. *w.*

LEVEL, *v.* to assess. *Ex.* "I will pay whatever you *level* upon me." It is implied in the very word that the assessment is a fair and equal one.

LEWER, LOWER, *s.* a lever. The first an obvious variation of that word; the second, a very common change of the diphthongs *ew* and *ow*.

LICK-UP, *s.* a miserably small pittance of any thing; as if it were no more than the cat can take up by one stroke of her tongue.

LIE, *v.*

1. *Phr.* "to *lie* by the wall."

2. "To *lie* on the cold floor."

Both these phrases mean to lie dead before interment.

LIE-LATCH, *s.* a wooden vessel filled with wood ashes, on which water is poured, and the *lie* which runs through holes in the bottom, is caught, or *latched*, in another vessel below. Some call it a *letch*, *utrum navis*. It may come from *A. s.* *læcan* or *gelecean*, *rigare*, or *Isl.* *lech*, *stillo*. *JEN.* has *lie-lip*.

LIFT, *s.* a sort of coarse rough gate of sawn wood, not hung, but driven into the ground by pointed stakes, like a hurdle, used for the same purposes of

sub-dividing lands, stopping gaps in fences, &c. and deriving its name from the necessity of *lifting* it up for the purpose of passing through. R. S. E. C. In Suffolk, however, a *lift* differs from a gate principally in not being hung on hinges, but in having the projecting ends of the back and lower bar let into mortice holes in the posts, into and out of which it must be *lifted*.

LIGGER, *s.* a line with a float and bait, for catching pike, thrown into the water and allowed to *lie* there some time before it is examined. In L. SC. the Saxon word *lig* is preserved in general use; by us only, perhaps, in this instance. A. S. *liggeran*, jacere.

LIG, LIGGLE, *v.* to carry something too heavy to be carried with ease, as a child *liggles* a puppy about. Both the words are dimin. of *lug*.

LIGHTS, *s. pl.* the lungs; probably from their buoyancy in water. JEN.

LIGHT-TIMBERED, *adj.* light-limbed; active and alert. SH. Love's Labour Lost, speaks of a "*clean-timbered*" person in a similar sense.

LIKE, *adj.* One mode of forming adjectives in the Saxon language was by adding *lic* or *lice* to substantives or verbs. In English, this termination is softened into *ly*; often, but not always, conveying the original idea of *likeness*. To affect this, we are in the habit of annexing our own word *like* in propria forma, not so as to form one compound word, nor to affect any word, verb or substantive, in particular, but the whole phrase or clause, in which either occurs. Ex. "She was in a passion *like*." "She fared to be angry *like*." "She scolded me

like." The usage may be said to be awkward enough; but it is after the antique. It means, "in a manner," or "as it were." It may be added, that in our use of the common anomalous colloquial phrase, "had *like*," we generally use the Saxon word pure and unchanged. Ex. "He had *lic* to have broke his head."

LIKE OF, v. to approve. Ex. "My master will not *like of* it." However awkward an appendage the preposition may be, it is O. E. *sm*. Tempest, speaks of "a shape to *like of*."

LIMB, s. a determined sensualist; one who eats, drinks, or wenches with peculiar glee and zest. If it do not mean "a *limb* of the devil," (the latter part of the phrase being dropped by courtesy,) it should seem as if the word had at some time, and in some manner, not now to be discovered, got encumbered with the letter *b*, and that, it ought, in fact, to be spelled *lim*. In Henry VIII. *sm*. speaks of the "*Limbs* of Limehouse." That they were gross blackguards is all that can safely be collected, after all the pains of the commentators. B. JON. in Bartholomew Fair, mentions the "*Lime-hounds* of the City," apparently much in the same sense. In *sm*. Lear the *lime-hound* is called the *lym*, and Dr. Caius calls him the *lymmer*. Now, both the passages in *sm*. and B. JON. will bear, though neither strictly requires, the sense here given to the word *lim*, that of a gross and vulgar sensualist, who follows the call of natural appetite as instinctively as a dog pursues his game. Another conjectural origin of the word may be offered. *Lim*.

may be a familiar and contemptuous abbreviation of *Limitour*, the mendicant friar who was sent forth to collect alms for his convent within certain *limits*. How loose was the character of those licentious strollers, and how freely they were satirised, long before the Reformation, clearly appears from the admirable picture of The Frere in the Canterbury Tales. He was "a wanton and a merie," and yet "a full solempne man;" a very pleasant scoundrel certainly, but a very profligate and imposing one.

LIMMOCK, *adj.* Intens. of limp. q. v. PE.

LIMP, LIMPSY, *adj.* flaccid. Apparently a contraction of *limber*. GL. A.

LINE, *v.* to beat; from the implement of chastisement, a rope's end. L. sc.

LINK, *s.* a sausage. From the usual mode of forming sausages, it should seem, that a single one, were only half a *link* of the savoury chain. We call two together a *latch of links*. In some other counties, a far more correct expression is used, "a *link* of sausages."

LINK-PIN, *s.* Why not as good as linch-pin?

LISSOME, *adj.* pliant; limber. A contraction of *lithe-some*, not of *light-some*, as T. J. and others would have it.

LISTLY, *adv.* quick of hearing. Ex. "I am very *listly* of hearing."

LISTLY, *adv.* easily, distinctly. Ex. "I heard it very *listly*." CH. has the verb *lisse* to make easy. This is an adverb, formed from the participle of that verb.

LITTLE-SILVER, *s.* a low price. **Ex.** "The stover in my low meadows, have been so 'nationally dammed by this slattering weather (said an old farmer) that 'tw'ont be worth but *little-silver*."

LIVE-UNDER, **Phr.** It strongly expresses the close connexion between landlord and tenant; the latter looking up to the former as his patron, and being desirous of shewing him every mark of attention and respect, and being in his turn considered as under protection. *I live-under* Lord A. Sir B. C. Squire D. are expressions seldom heard in the present state of things, and never with all their old meaning. The hiring of farms is now considered simply as one mode of investing money. Certain conditions must be made, and kept, and if they be so, little or nothing remains on the score of mutual attachment. "How far this revolution of manners," said the late Sir John Cullum, in his History of Hawsted (and he might rather have said this change in the frame of rustic society) "may be productive of national benefit, may I think, justly admit of doubt." "*Periculosæ plenum opus aleæ!*"

LOB, *v.* to kick.

LOBCOCK, **LUBBOCK**, *s.* a lout; a lubber. Not only a Northern word, *T. J.* but an Eastern one. *Isl. lubbe*, incultus et incomptus.

LOBLOLLY, *s.* Neither water-gruel, nor any particular sea-faring dish as *T. J.* makes it. With us, as in Exmore, it means "any odd mixture of spoon meat," provided only that it be very thick. We have a simile founded upon it, "as thick as *lob-*

lolly." Though what *loblolly* exactly is, we do not pretend to define.

LOBSTER, *s.* the smallest of the weasel tribe, the stoat, or mousehunt.

LOCK-SPIT, *s.* a small cut with a spade to shew the direction in which a piece of land is to be divided by a new fence. We also commonly narrow the word *spade*, to *spid* or *spit*, in talking of the depth to which labourers are required to dig. Ex. "Go three *spid* deep." There seems to be some reason for this narrowness, in the A. s. word. A. s. *loc*, *claustrum*, and *spæd*, ligo.

LODE, *s.* an artificial water-course. In the fens in the south-west angle of Norfolk are several *lodes* to aid the drainage; as Salter's *lode*, &c. But the term is not confined to fen-drainage. At Fincham, the common water-course, which intersects the lower part of the parish from west to east, to the outfall into the river Wissey is called at present, and in all old writings, the *lode-ditch*. It is often corruptly called the *low-ditch*; so easy is it to lose ancient names, by confounding them with more modern and familiar words. A. s. *lodian*, haurire.

LOGGER, *v.* to shake as a wheel which has been loosened, and does not perform its motion correctly.

LOKE, *s.* a short narrow turn-again lane. A. s. *loc*, *clausula* (a closing up).

LOLLIPOP, *s.* a coarse sweetmeat, made of treacle and brown sugar.

LOLLOP, *v.* to lounge and saunter heavily. Intens. of *loll*. BR. Isl. *loll*, tardus gressus,

LOLL-POOP, *s.* a sluggish sedentary loungeur. Literally one who is sluggish in the stern. B. has "*slow-back*!" in the same sense.

LOLLY-SWEET, *adj.* lusciously sweet, without any flavour to relieve the sweetness.

LOND, *s.*

1. Land in the abstract.

2. A division of an unclosed field. Rather, indeed, a subdivision; for in the old maps of unclosed parishes, each field is divided into furlongs, and each furlong into *londs*. In O. E. *londe* or *launde*.

A. S. *lond*, territorium.

LOND, *v.* to clog with mire. Ex. "He came walking over the ploughed field, and was *londed* up to the knees."

LONE-WOMAN, *s.* a woman unmarried, or without a male protector. SH. 2 Hen. IV.

LONG, *v.* to forward to a distance, from one hand to another, in succession.

LONG, *adj.*

1. Great. Ex. "He asks a *long* price."

2. Tough to the palate. Its opposite, *short*, means easy to masticate, as pie-crust, &c.

LONGFUL, *adj.* very long; full long. Ex. "He was gone a *longful* while." JEN.

LOOP, *s.* the part of a pale-fence between one post and another. Otherwise a *length* or *lift* of paling.

R. S. E. C.

LOOSE-ENDED, *adj.* lewd. Ex. "She is a *loose-ended* baggage." If common decency would permit, a very illustrative compound epithet might be cited from Aristophanes.

LOP, *v.* to hang loosely. *BR. lob.* Both connected with *lobe*.

LOPE, *v.* to take long strides ; particularly with long legs. Intens of *leap*, by substituting the broader vowel. Or from *Sui.-G. loepa*, *currere*. *L. sc. loap*.

LOPPER, *v.* to turn sour and coagulate by too long standing. *Loppered-milk* has been explained *du lait pourri*. But another, and perhaps more probable, origin, is, *Isl. klupe*, coagulum. *BR.*

LORDS AND LADIES, *s.* the flowering stems of the *Arum maculatum*, *Lin.*

LOVIER, *s.* a lover. A vulgarism, but no corruption. Not peculiar to us. Nearer the *A. s.* than the common word. *A. s. lufian*, *amare*.

LOWEN, *v.* to fall in price. Very analogically opposed to *heigh'n*, *q. v.*

LUCAM, *s.* a window in the roof of a house. *Fr. lucarne*.

LUCKS, *s. pl.* small portions of wool twisted on the finger of a spinner at the wheel or distaff. The same word as *lock*, when applied to hair, &c. but in form nearer to the original. *A. s. alucean*, *evelere*.

LUGSOME, *adj.* heavy. Either to be borne as a burthen, or, when applied to a road, causing a wearisome drag to cattle.

LUMBER, *s.* coarse, dirty, or foolish talk.

LUMMOX, *s.* a fat unwieldy person, and very stupid to boot ; heavy in mind and body ; as if made of loam or unctuous earth. *Ex.* "Look o'yin great lummoX, lazing and lolloping about."

LUMP, *v.* to drub with heavy blows. Teut. *lomper*, *infigere*.

LUMPING, *s.* a heavy drubbing.

LUMPS, *s. pl.* bricks of the common length and breadth, but half as thick again, and harder.

LUNGE, *v.* to lean forward; to throw one's whole weight on any thing. T. J. has not this verb, which is somewhat remarkable, as it is a term in fencing; meaning to thrust with full force. In B. A. a *lunger* is made synonymous with a *lubber*. It is certainly the word, which since that time has become *lounge*, and which is of near kin to our verb.

LUNT, *adj.* short; crusty; surly in speech or in manners. In GL. A. it is explained "dull; slow." Lat. *lentus*.

LURE, *v.* to make a loud and shrill cry. Ex. "They halloo'd and *lured* to one another." It has no less authority than that of the great Bacon. It is an old term in falconry, meaning, not only to hold out an enticement, but to utter a particular call, to bring the hawk back.

LURRY, *v.* to daub by rolling in mire. Ex. "His clothes were *lurried* all over." Belg. *leure*, *merx vilis*.

LUST, *v.* to incline. Metaph. from inclination of mind. Ex. "This wall *lust* o'one side." B. gives it as a sea-term. "The ship *lusts*."

M.

MACAROON, *s.* a fop. All Sexagenarians must well remember the time when the jackanapes, who

are now called *dandies*, were denominated *macaronies*. An old woman, who some forty years ago was fourscore, calle done of these exquisites a *macaroon*; and got laughed at for her supposed awkward attempt at a fashionable term. Whereas, in fact, the good lady was using a word, in all probability perfectly familiar to her many years before that particular fashion came up. The word may probably now be extinct, but it is O. E. N. G.

MADAM, *s.* a term of respect to gentlewomen; below *lady*, but above *mistress*. In a village, the Esquire's wife, if she be not literally a lady, must have *madam* prefixed to her surname. The parson's wife, if he be a doctor, or a man of considerable preferment and genteel figure, must be *madam* too. The wife of the humble vicar, the curate, the farmer, and the tradesman must be content with the style of *mistress*; which, indeed, among the great refinements, and improvements in rural life, is going rapidly downwards among the *ci-devant* goodies.

MADGETIN, *s.* the Margaret apple. Margaret being familiarly reduced to *Madge*.

MAG, *v.* to chatter. It implies somewhat of displeasure, not amounting to wrath. When two vulgar vixens come to a downright scolding bout, each is said to *rag* her antagonist. In a trifling disagreement, they are said to *mag* at one another. The word is certainly nearly connected with *magpie*; which in some counties, and indeed sometimes by us, is popularly called a *chatter-pie*. But as there seems to have been something of misconception in this case, it may be as well to clear it up. Johns.

supposes a *maggie* to be so called, as a redbreast is called Robin, and a parrot Poll; taking *mag* for Margaret. But *Meg* is a familiar abbreviation of that Christian name, and was always used by Sir Thomas Moore, in addressing his favourite daughter. *Madge*, indeed, is used for Margaret, but that is appropriated to the owl; and nobody ever heard of a *madge-pie*. Minshew seems to stumble over the true derivation, without being aware of it, when he calls the bird a *magatopie*. SH. Macbeth hits it exactly in *magot-pie* q. d. *monkey-pie*; the two creatures being pretty nearly equal in mischief, and noisy chattering; unde *mag*. Fr. *magot*.

MAGOT, *s.* a whimsy; odd fancy; freak; monkey-trick.

MAGOTTY, *adj.* whimsical; freakish; monkey-like. Johnson calls these "low words." So they may be; but not so low as the dirty creeping vermin from which they seem to derive their names. They should be spelled with a single *g*; and though they are by no means our particular property or concern, they may very well be inserted here under this correction.

MAIN, *s.* that part of the meat which is least dressed.

Ex. "Give me a slice in the *main*." It seems to mean the thickest and most substantial part, which would of course be longest in receiving the effect of culinary fire.

MAKE, *v.*

1. Phr. "To *make* count;" to intend; to reckon upon. Ex. "I *make* count to go to the fair to-morrow;" "to *make* account" in this sense is O. E. BR.

2. Phr. "To *make* on;" to caress; to distinguish by particular attention. SH. Coriolanus, "He is so *made* on here;" the dog "*makes* on" his master, or the master on his dog.
 3. Phr. "To *make* a hand on;" to waste; to destroy. To "*make* a good, bad, or indifferent, hand" of an undertaking, are phrases common enough. With us a bad sense is always understood, when no qualifying epithet is used. Ex. "He has *made* a hand of all his property;" "That dog is mad, I must *make* a hand on him."
 4. "To *make* a noise;" to scold, or rate severely. A servant having neglected her work, or gone forth to a gossiping or a junket without leave, expresses her fear that her mistress will "*make* a noise" at her; or that she shall "have a noise;" or "be noised."
 5. "To *make* ready;" to dress provision. The most common phrase. Ex. "I shall *make* ready my turkey to-morrow;" "I will let you know when the beef is to be *made* ready."
 6. "To *make* bold;" to presume; to take the liberty. Ex. "I have *made* bold to come."
 7. "To *make* a die on't;" to die after long sickness or decline. Ex. "So Will. Young is like to *make* a die on't at last."
- MAKE, *s.* an instrument of husbandry, with a long handle, and a crooked iron at the end, chiefly used to pull up pease. Tusser calls it a *meake*, and his is the only authority in the DICTT. We pronounce it *make*, and talk of "*making* the crop of pease." Indeed, every crop, howsoever severed from the soil,

and left upon it to dry, is said to be *made* when it is in a fit state to be carried. We say "in this cloudy weather there is no *make* for the hay," &c. This implement is also called *meag* by R. S. E. C. perhaps to give it a Saxon air, but A. S. *meag*, does not appear to have any such meaning. In Suffolk, the instrument is always called a *pease-make*.

MALAHACK, *v.* A word ludicrously fabricated, which means to cut or carve in an awkward and slovenly manner.

MALAN-TREE, *s.* the beam across an open chimney, in front of which the *mantle-piece* or shelf is fixed.

MALE-PILLION, *s.* a stuffed leathern cushion to carry luggage upon, behind a servant attending his master on a journey. A mode of travelling and of conveyance, gone out of use in our own times, since the universal adoption of gigs, whiskies, tilburies, dennetts, &c. Before that time, every gentleman had a *male-pillion* and stout horse to carry his *male* behind his servant. It is the ancient and proper name of what is now called a cloke-bag or portmanteau, and is still in use in the north (BR.) though not among us. We find it in CH. and in SH. O. E. Fr. *male*.

MALT-CUMBS, *s. pl.* malt-dust. The little sprouts and roots of malted barley, withered, turned dry, and separated by the screen. Qu. are they so called because produced upon the *couch*?

MAMBLE, *v.* to eat with seeming indifference, as if from want of appetite or disrelish of the food. A dimin. of *mumble*, by change of vowel.

MAMMOCKS, *s. pl.* leavings; wasted fragments.

Ex. "Eat up your *mammoths*, child." Not the sense of the DICTT. Sometimes, indeed, we talk of tearing a thing "all to *mammoths*." SK. makes a qu. *mammoths* from c. BR. *mdn*, parvus?

MAN, *s.* Is used with much latitude, indeed, as almost synonymous with the word being, *genus generalissimum*, as the logicians call it! However it is O. E. In SH. Romeo and Juliet flies are called "free *men*;" the devil is repeatedly styled a *man*. Nay, the sapient master Dogberry applies the name most irreverently to the Supreme Being. P. P. clerk of this parish calls the ideal personage death, a *man*. In N. G. it is observed, that the usage prevails particularly in "low and jocular language." No doubt, and it is thus we sometimes add it to professional denominations, as a soldier-*man*, a lawyer-*man*; but the author once met with an instance of a very different character. A poor old woman, who had endured much, with great Christian patience, was recounting to him her wrongs and sufferings in much bitterness of sorrow, and confirmed her narrative, by adding with simple and unaffected, but not unaffecting tone and gesture, "Sir, God himself is the *man* that knows it."

MANY-A-TIME-AND-OFTEN, Phr. a pleonasm or rather tautology, sufficiently ridiculous, but in very familiar use. It is, however, O. E. SH. Merchant of Venice.

MARA-BALK, MERE-BALK, MIRE-BALK, MERE, *s.* a *balk* or narrow slip of land, unploughed, separating properties in a common field. A. S. *mæra*, finis.

MARCH-BIRD, *s.* a frog. V. FEN-NIGHTINGALE.

MARCH-PANE, *s.* a favourite delicacy in old times, and if it has ceased to be served up, its name (which is all we have to do with it), has been retained far within our limits. The long and dear memory of a venerable matron, to whom this work is under some obligation, retained the actual use of it. According to her description the principal ingredients were almonds and sugar. It was therefore much like our macaroons, but was made broad and flat, cut into slices, and so distributed to the guests at deserts or tea-tables. This short account agrees with the long one in *N. G.* and is not taken from old books of cookery, but from authority lately living. As to derivation, we may rest satisfied with the *Fr.* word given in *T. J.* Let them prove they came honestly by it. *Fr. masse-pane.*

MARDLE, *s.* a pond near the house, in the yard, or on the neighbouring green, or by the road side, convenient for watering cattle. Exactly the *Fr. mardelle.*

MARE'S-FAT, *s. Inula dysenterica*, *Lin.*

MARE'S-TAILS, *s. pl.* long narrow clouds irregularly floating below the general mass, and of a darker colour; reckoned a strong indication of continued rainy weather.

MARGENT, *s.* a margin. This word was used by the best writers within little more than a century. It occurs in *Swift*. Yet, certainly, neither *e* nor *t* can possibly find its way into any case of a Latin substantive in *go-ginis*. We cannot bring ourselves off in this, as we may in some cases, by saying we took our word from the French. The word in

that language is *marge*. However sanctioned by former or present use *margent* is corrupt. But we obscure East Angles follow great leaders. It was for them to have looked to it.

MARSHALSEA-MONEY, *s.* the county rate. So very odd a name deserves some examination. The general assessment called the county rate, at whatsoever time it was first established by Statute, must have been meant to regulate the old *trinoda necessitas* of the common law, which existed even in the earliest Saxon times. It was intended to provide a fund in each county for the repair of bridges and highways, for that of the king's castles, and for procuring substitutes to serve against his invading enemies. From time to time it was probably made applicable to additional purposes. At length, by the Act 43 Eliz. c. 2. payments were directed to be made out of it, to "hospitals, shipwrecked mariners, sufferers by fire, and prisoners in the *Marshalsea*." As these were persons who had before no claim upon it, it was then that our word came into use. The *Marshalsea* meant primarily and properly, the prison to which offenders were committed, by a Court having cognizance of crimes within the precincts of the king's palaces only. But the name seems to have been used, in process of time, with more latitude. The King's Bench Prison, at least appears to be occasionally called the *Marshalsea*, and the keeper of it is styled the *Marshal*. To that prison, and to the Fleet, small payments are made to this day, under the name of contributions to the relief of prisoners

there, as appears by the annual statements of the county treasurers. From such inconsiderable sums it is impossible to account for the general application of the name, unless it were given in scorn and ridicule, or from a feeling of injustice, that any part of the impost should be sent out of the county, in and for which it was raised, to persons remote and unconnected; especially, if it were understood to be bestowed on delinquents in the king's own household. If the name *Marshalsea* were extended to prisons in general, and *Marshalsea-money* were therefore synonymous with *gaol-money*, the application of it as a general designation, would be more intelligible and plausible, though still inadequate. The expenses of the five prisons in the county of Norfolk, amount to about one half of what is annually expended on all the multiplied and increased demands on the county rate.

MATCHLY, *adj.* exactly alike; fitting nicely. Another of Sir Thomas Browne's words, happily explained by modern pronunciation, *mackly*. A. S. *maka*, par.

MAVIS, *s.* a thrush. The missel thrush, or storm cock, is never so called, only the smaller thrush, the *Turdus musicus*, Lin. Fr. *mauvie*. P. B. CH.

MAUKIN, *s.*

1. A dirty, ragged, blowzy, wench. SH. Coriolanus, "The kitchen *malkin*." A dimin. of *Mary* or *Moll*, anciently written *Mall*.
2. A scare crow; a "figure of shreds and patches, imitating humanity abominably," in old ragged

apparel, male or female, and set up in a garden or on new-sown land. Sui-G. *moqua mollescere*.

MAUL, *s.* clayey or marly soil, adhering to the spade or ploughshare.

MAULMY, *adj.* clammy; adhesive; sticking to whatever comes in contact with it. BR.

MAUTHER, *s.* a girl. Sir Thomas Browne. Tusser uses it. So does B. JONS. "You talk like a foolish *mauther*," says Restive to Dame Pliant, in the Alchemist. It seems peculiarly an East-Anglian word. So at least it was considered by Sir Henry Spelman. It is highly amusing to find so grave an antiquary endeavouring earnestly, and at no inconsiderable length, to vindicate the honour of his mother-tongue; and to rescue this important word from the contempt with which some, as it seems, through their ignorance, were disposed to treat it. "Quod rident cæteri Angli," says he, "vocis nescientes probitatem." He assures us that it was applied by our very early ancestors, even to the noble virgins who were selected to sing the praises of heroes. They were called *scald-moers*, q. d. *singing mauthers*! "En quantum in spretâ jam voce antiquæ gloriæ!" He complains that the old word *moer* had been corrupted to *mother*, and so confounded with a very different word. We distinguish them very effectually by pronunciation, and, what is more, we actually come very near to the original word in the abbreviated form we use in addressing a *mauther*. We commonly call her mau'r. Dan. *moer*. Belg. *modde*, innupta puella.

MAWSKIN, *s.* the maw of a calf, cleaned and salted,

to produce the liquor called runnett, used for curdling milk.

MAY, *s.* the flowers of *Cratægus oxyacantha*, and of *Prunus spinosa*, Lin. are respectively called white-thorn and blackthorn *may*. JEN. BR.

MAY-BUSH, *s.* either of the shrubs which bear those flowers. In Suffolk, however, the "*May-bush*" is always the white-thorn.

MEAL, *s.* as much milk as is taken from a cow at one milking. W. C. BR. A. S. *mæl*, mensura.

MEAL'S VICTUALS, *s.* food taken at one meal. N. G. has a "*meal's meat*," which is the same thing, and he quotes it from B. and F. It is not unusual to hire labourers at so much daily wages, and a daily or occasional meal; or to make the *meal's victuals* the wages of some short chance job of work.

MEANING, *s.* an intimation; hint; likelihood; slight symptom. Ex. "I felt some little *meaning* of fever this morning." A. S. *myne-gung*, admonitio.

MEASLED, *part.* diseased. Ex. "The hog is *measled*."

MEASLINGS, *s.* the measles. Dan. *meszling*, morbilli.

MEDDLE AND MAKE, *v.* to interfere, to intrude into business in which one has no particular concern. It is both O. E. and L. SC. An odd expression, with which it may be better not to *meddle*, as one can *make* nothing of it. V. D.

MEETINER, *s.* a vulgar phrase for one who frequents a dissenting meeting-house.

MELL, *v.* to swing or wheel round, to turn any thing slowly about; from resemblance to the motion of a mill.

MENDING THE MUCK-HEAP, Phr. a coarse vul-

gar romping-bout. If one falls down, others fall over till there is a promiscuous heap, of either or of both sexes, tumbling together, as they would express it themselves, "heads and holls," of course indelicately and seldom decently.

MENTLE, *s.* a woman's coarse woollen apron. Apparently a vile misapplication of the word *mantle*, which commonly means a garment of state and ceremony worn on the shoulders. However strange it may be, our word is pure Saxon. A. s. *mentl. pallium*.

MESLIN, *s.* a mixture of the flour or meal of different sorts of grain.

MESLIN-BREAD, *s.* bread made of mixed flour or meal. Fifty years ago, on the light soils of both our counties, thousands of acres produced only rye, which now yield an abundance of wheat. At that time the household bread of the common farm-houses in those districts, was made of rye. *Meslin-bread*, made with equal quantities of wheat and rye was for the master's table only. It was thought very good and wholesome bread. In the seasons of real or artificial scarcity within the last 30 years, *meslin* was made of rye-meal and barley-flour, and the bread composed of it was found to be palatable and nutritious.

MESS, *s.* a gang; a crew; a scrape. Ex. "It is well I was not in the *mess*!"

MEVE, *v.* to move. O. E. In L. sc. there is *preve* for prove.

MIDDLESTEAD, *s.* the compartment of a barn which contains the threshing floor; generally in the *middle* of the building. But the same name serves,

should it be, as in small barns it sometimes is, at one end.

MILE, *pr. n.* an abbreviated pronunciation of *Michael*, which was anciently written Mihil or Mihel, and probably pronounced monosyllabically, as we pronounce it. In the City of Norwich are two parish Churches dedicated to the Archangel, which have, time immemorial, been called St. *Mile's* at Coslany and St. *Mile's* at Plea; and the good citizens of Norwich have been censured for corrupting the Saint's name, of which they are quite innocent. *Michael*, as the Christian name of a man, is sometimes mispronounced *Miles*; and this is a corruption, for it can have no right to the letter *s*.

MILK-BROTH, *s.* gruel made with milk, and grits or oatmeal.

MILLER, *s.* a moth, probably so called from its mealy appearance.

MILLION, *s.* a pumpkin. Corruptly so named in all probability from its resemblance in shape to a *melon*.

MIM, *adj.* primly silent; with lips closed lest a stray word should escape.

MINE, *pr. poss.* this and other pronouns possessive are used with the ellipsis of house. Ex. "I wish you would come to *mine*." "I shall go to-morrow to *yours*." "We are invited to *his*."

MING, *v.* to knead; to mix the ingredients of bread. It does not appear to be used in any other application, though it seems to have a general sense in Saxon. Not in general use in Norfolk, though its dimin. *mingle* is, but very common in Suffolk. A. S. *mengcan*, *miscere*.

MINIFER, *s.* the white stoat or ermin. *Mustela erminea*, Lin. It is sometimes, but very rarely, found in this country in very severe seasons. Its fine fur was called miniver by our ancestors, and is frequently mentioned as very highly valued by them. O. Fr. *menio-voir*. Cotgr.

MINK, MINT, *v.* to attempt; to aim at. It is not the only instance in which we change the consonants *k* and *t*. We very commonly pronounce *ast* for *ask*. Alemannic *meinta*, intentio. BR.

MINK-MEAT, *s.* meat for fowls, &c. *minged* with bran or barley-meal. *V. MUNG*.

MINNOCK, *s.* one who affects much delicacy. The actual existence of this word, in present use, had they known it, would have extricated from their difficulty the commentators on Shakspeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*. The word is used there with strong irony and derision. "And forth my *minnock* comes," meaning Bottom with the ass's head. Dr. Johnson's conjecture that the proper word is *minnick*, and that from it might come *minnix* and *minx* in the *fæm. gen.* may be true; but does not help us to a derivation, or to a better meaning than we have here. It means just the same sort of animal, is just as good a word, and deserves as good a derivation, if we could come at it, as our modern *dandy*.

MINNOCK, *v.* to affect delicacy; to play the fribble.

MISBEHOLDING, *part.* offensive; affronting. It is applied solely to words. Ex. "I never gave her one *misbeholding* word." That the word *behold* ever existed in the exact sense of the Latin *obligo*, cannot

perhaps be proved ; at least it will not be attempted here. But certain it is that we have its two principles in that sense. The part. pass. *beholden* for *obliged* is in very common use. And in this compound word we have the part. act. *misbeholding* is *disobliging*.

MISCASUALTY, *s.* an unlucky accident. And why is it not as good a word as mischance, or misfortune? It cannot justly be called a corruption of *casualty*, but is itself unfortunately liable to be corrupted to *miscasalty*, or *miscasaltry*.

MISCOMFORTUNE, **MISCOMHAP**, *s.* misfortune; mishap. The insertion of the syllable *com* is by no means without signification. Fortune or hap *comes amiss*.

MISERY, *s.* acute pain in any part of the body. "*Misery* in the head," means a violent head-ache.

MISLIN-BUSH, *s.* the mistletoe. Without attempting to unsettle a derivation so unexceptionable as that which is assigned in the **DICT.** to the word *mistletoe*, may we not be allowed to conjecture that our word has long, if not always, co-existed with it, and that on account of the brilliant yellow colour of the plant, so conspicuous at a considerable distance, it has been named from *A. s. mæslenne*, *aureicalchum*?

MISS, *s.* a term of respectful address to young gentlemen. The fortune of this word has been various and capricious. It seems to be an abbreviation of *mistress*, and to have been first applied to loose women ; as if they deserved only half the appellation commonly given to the virtuous part of their sex.

Within little more than a century, the proper title of unmarried women of genteel condition was *Mistress*. The young ladies of the Lizard family are so called in *The Guardian*. The heroine of the Rape of the Lock was *Mistress* Arabella Fermor, a celebrated young beauty of the same age. Some few years after, these would certainly all have been *Misses*. Writers, who exhibit genteel life as it existed about the middle of the last century (Richardson for instance), use *Miss*, both in speaking *of* and speaking *to* unmarried ladies. And so do we to this day. Yet, in the politer world, it would be offensive to say *miss*, in personal address, without adding to it the fair one's Christian or surname, or both. A friendly letter must on no account begin with, "Dear *Miss*," as it might sixty or seventy years ago; nor must one say, "Pray, *Miss*, do you go to the ball this evening?" The writer or the speaker would immediately be set down for a vulgar fellow. The word *Madam*, however absurdly, must be used in either case. When the French *Madame* was introduced, and applied, as it has been ever since, to married women, it is much to be wished that some fairly anglicised form of their *Mademoiselle* had been imported with it, to supersede our paltry, slippery, ambiguous *Miss*. However, as we retain this antiquated and exploded application of *Miss*, and refuse to adopt the absurd misapplication of *Madam* to maidens, it claims a place among our other vulgarisms, together with what we can say in excuse of it.

MOCK-BEGGAR-HALL, s. a house with an inviting

external aspect, but within poor and bare, dirty, and disorderly, and disappointing those who beg alms at the door.

MOFFLE, MUFFLE, *v.* to speak thick and inarticulately. Belg. *maffelen*, balbutire. BR. *maffle*.

MOIL, *v.* to labour. It is from *moile*, the O. E. word for a mule, a laborious beast. We commonly couple it with toil; and talk of "toiling and *moiling*," or "*moiling* and toiling," no matter which stands first, the jingle being equally good in either case.

MOISE, *v.* to mend; improve; increase, &c. O. Fr. *moison*, (not *moisson*).

MOISER, *s.* a medicine which makes a sick man *moise*.

MOLT, *s.* a profuse perspiration.

MOLTED, *part.* violently affected by heat. The O. E. *molten*, and our *molted* must both be from *molt*, and that is to be considered as intens. of *melt*, by substituting the broader vowel. JEN. *mult*.

MOLT-WATER, *s.* clear exsudation. "His face was all of a *molt-water*." The discharge from a blister is likewise so called.

MONTH'S-MIND, *s.* an eager wish or longing. A very ancient phrase, many centuries old, in very general use in a different sense; perhaps, now equally general in this. It was a feast in memory of the dead, held by surviving friends at the end of a month from the decease. The question is, how was the one sense derived from the other? Mr. Nares says there is no imaginable connexion. On the contrary, it seems quite easy to imagine one. The dying man in providing for this commemoration meeting, casts a "a longing, lingering look behind," and expressively indicates an eager wish to

live a little longer in the remembrance, and the ideal society, as it were, of those whom he loved, and must leave behind him. This seems quite connexion enough; and leaves no room for the forced conjecture, that the phrase arose from certain female longings, which are gratuitously assumed to exist, or at least to begin, only in the first *month*. The learned Archdeacon, to whose opinion on any philological question certainly great deference is due, professes himself so well pleased with this conjecture, as to have no doubt of its being the true interpretation. Yet, at the same time, he professes, that he has endeavoured in vain, to find authority for the assumption on which alone it rests. O. E. N. G. &c.

MOP AND MOW, v. Words pretty frequently occurring in SH. and puzzling his commentators. They are not, as Mr. Stevens supposes, synonymous. In modern use, certainly distinct. About *mowing* there can be no doubt. It is *making mouths*. That phrase occurs in Ps. xxxv. 15, O. Tr. in an edition no older than that of Field, 1656, *mouths* is printed *mows*. *Mopping* now signifies playing antic tricks, as in mirth or mockery; crouching low, and springing up again, &c. A dog frisking and gamboling before his master, may be an instance. SP. has "*mocks and mows*." It seems as if both expressions were in use in his time; and this throws some light. *Mop* is from Sui.-G. *mopa*, deridere. In BR. *mop* is to prim.

MOREOVER THAN THAT. Phr. besides; over and above that. It is equivalent to the common phrase, "what is more than that." T.

MORK-SHRIEK, *s.* a mockery; a humbug; a foolish old wife's tale. Literally, it means "a *shriek* in the dark." In some towns and villages, "ghosts unlaidd" still walk at the "witching time of night," and in various ways annoy the slumbering inhabitants; some times by piercing screams, "making night hideous" to dreaming old women and naughty children. But so much has the human mind been strengthened and improved, in these happy days of general illumination, that the once terrific *mork-shriek* is become a mockery and a byword among the vulgar. Dan. *morck*, caligo.

MORRIS, *s.* an ancient game, in very common modern use. In SH. *Midsummer Night's Dream*, it is called "nine men's *morris*," from its being plaid with nine men, as they were then, and still are called. We call it simply *morris*. Probably it took the name from a fancied resemblance to a dance, in the motions of the men. A wood-cut of it is given in the varior. edition of Shakspeare, 8vo. 1778. Dr. Johnson professes that he knew no more of it than that it was some rustic game. Another commentator speaks of it as common among shepherd's boys in some part of Warwickshire. It cannot well be more common there than here, and it is not particularly rustic. Shepherd's boys and other clowns play it on the green turf, or on the bare ground; cutting or scratching the lines, on the one or the other. In either case it is soon filled up with mud in wet weather. In towns, porters and other labourers play it, at their leisure hours, on the flat pavement, tracing the figure with chalk. It is also a domestic game; and the figure is to be

found on the back of some draught-boards. But, to compare *morris* with that game, or with chess, seems absurd ; as it has a very distant resemblance, if any at all, to either, in the lines, or in the rules of playing. On the ground, the men are pebbles, broken tiles, shells, or potsherds ; on a table, the same as are used at draughts or backgammon. In N. G. it is said to be the same as nine holes. With us it is certainly different.

MORT, *s.* a very great number or quantity. Isl. *margt*, multum. w. c.

MORTAL, *adj.* very great ; exceeding. Whether we had this word, and the adverb belonging to it, immediately from the French (which seems neither easy to be ascertained, nor worth ascertaining) ; it is in the highest degree probable that we, or they, or both, had them, mediately or immediately, from the Gothic word given above ; and that they are not derivatives, as they at first sight appear, and are perhaps generally understood to be, from *mort* (death). On that supposition they are used in both languages, in extravagant latitude, and even without any reference to their derivation. In Fr. the use of them is very general ; in English, only in vulgar, if not provincial language. In the former, we hear of "*mortel effroi*," and "*mortel ennui*," without any the least apprehension that either of those affections will prove fatal. In the latter, we say a man is in a "*mortal* passion," but are not at all afraid that he will either expire in a paroxysm of rage, or slay the object of his wrath. In either case, all that is actually meant is "very great

or exceeding." It is not, indeed, to be denied, that there is, in both the languages, an adjective from *mort* (death), with its proper derivative meaning. But that is, in English at least, to be considered as a different word from this. They might be distinguished by a different mode of spelling. The termination *al* of adjectives is Latin, not Gothic. But *le* or *l* alone is so. And the word now under consideration, might be spelled, as it is always pronounced, *mortle*. Another instance has before occurred, of a word, referable to two very different origins, but of one form. *V. FRUGAL.*

MORTALLY, *adv.* very ; exceedingly. It is, in fact, no more than a sign of the superlative degree. It is used very vaguely and indifferently. A thing may be *mortally* good, or *mortally* bad. If we hear that a sick man is *mortally* ill, we do not understand by it that he is in any danger.

MORTATION, MORTATIONS, *adj.* and with the addition of *ly*, adverbs. Thus eked out with additional syllables, they may be understood as intensives of mortal and mortally ; but are very vulgar words of course. *w. c.*

MOUSE-HUNT, *s.* the stoat ; the smallest animal of the weasel tribe, and pursuing the smallest prey. This explains a passage in *SH. Romeo and Juliet*, in which Lady Capulet calls her husband a "*mouse-hunt*," and he exclaims a "*jealous hood!*" It is the same sense in which Cassio, in *Othello*, calls Bianca a "*fitchew*," that is, a polecat. All animals of that genus are said to have the same propensity, on which it is not necessary to be more

particular. N. observes that in some counties a weasel is called a *mouse-hunt*, but that it is little to the purpose of that passage. Surely it is much to the purpose, and clearly explains it.

MOZY, *adj.* shaggy ; covered with hair, The clown, who shaves but once a week, is of course very *mozy* when he comes under the barber's hands. It is a common nick-name of itinerant Jews, whether bearded or not. In this case, it may be meant for Moses ; as we call a sailor, Jack.

MUCH OF A MUCHNESS. Phr. much the same ; with little or nothing to choose.

MUCK, *s.*

1. The fresh dung of animals, *horse-muck*, *pig's-muck*.
2. The same mixed with straw for manure, which is the **DICTT.** sense.
3. Dirt or impurity of any sort. Johnson says it means "any thing filthy," and his editor means to correct him ; but he does not, if there be authority in actual use. It is **O. E.** too. "The common *muck* of the world," **SH.** *Coriolanus*.

Sui.-G. *mock*, *fimur*.

MUCK-GRUBBER, *s.* a hunk ; a sordid savor of money, who delves for it, as it were, in the mire.

MUCK-GRUBBING, *adj.* sordidly avaricious.

MUCK OF SWEAT, **MUCK-WASH**, *s.* excessive perspiration. Perhaps, rather a "*mug* of sweat," and a "*mug-wash*. **V.** *Mug*.

MUCK-SPOUT, *s.* one who is at once very loquacious and very foul-mouthed. A most expressive term.

MUCKY, *adj.* dirty. A child makes its hands, face, or clothes *mucky*, by playing in the dirt.

MUDGIN, *s.* rubbish of chalk and ruined buildings, mixed with lumps of clay, broken straw, &c. with which hovels or low walls for farm yards are sometimes built. *sc.* N. *murgeon*.

MUFFITEE, *s.* a covering for the wrists, of cotton, wool, or fur. A very small muff. *BR.*

MUG, *s.* a gloomy and damp state of the air. *SK.* gives this word in the sense of a "boiler, or small caldron," the steam of which is very much like our *mug*. He deduces it with a "*nescio an*," from *C. BR.* *mwgg*, tepidus.

MUG, *v.* We say "it *mugs*," as "it rains," &c.

MUGGY, *adj.* gloomy and damp; murky. Incorrect speakers are apt to confound three of our words, descriptive of weather, which are perfectly distinct. A *mug* is damp gloom, neither rain nor fog, but insinuating itself even into stout garments, somewhat in the manner of that which is in England, called a Scotch mist. A *roke* is a fog of various degrees of density. A *smur* is a small drizzling rain.

MULCH, *s.* a rich compost of rotten leaves, litter, rakings of roads, common sewers, &c. In Suffolk, "*mulch*" is confined entirely to long litter; straw saturated with the dung and urine of cattle, but not rotted.

MULDER, *v.* to crumble into dust.

MULDERY, MULTERY, *adj.* soft; crumbling; mellow. The first form may seem to be connected with *moulder*, but it is an older, if not a better, word.

The second may be thought to have some relation to *multure*, an O. E. word for *grist*. But its true etymon is below.

MULL, *s.* soft, breaking soil; "*putris gleba*." The broken and dusty reliques of turf heaps are called *turf-mull*, or *mool*. W. W. R. BR. Sui.-G. *mull*, *pulvis*, or *mo*, *terra sabulosa*.

MULLIGRUBS, *s. pl.* a fit of the sullens. We do not use it for *gripes*,, L. SC. V. MULLY, and GRUB.

MULLY, *v.* to make a sort of sullen half-suppressed growling, like a dog before he barks, or a bull before he roars. Isl. *mogla*, *murmurare*.

MULP, *v.* to be sulky; to pout.

MULPS, *s. pl.* a fit of sulkiness.

MULPY, *adj.* sulky.

MUMPER, *s.* a beggar. Johnson calls it a cant word.

Why so? It seems to come fairly enough from the Dan. word below, which well expresses the humble and supplicating tone of mendicants. With us, the word is not applied to beggars in general, but to those only who go in troops from house to house, in some places on St. Thomas's day, in others on St. Stephens; which latter, in the city of Norwich, is called, one does not see why, the Offering day. Dan. *mompelen*, *murmurare*.

MUN?

1. A particle of interrogation used in much the same manner as *ah'n?* or *anan?* q. v. Is it possible that this should be a Gothic form of the Greek *μῶν*; Casaubon, Junius, and more than all, Mr. Lemon, had the word been proposed to them, would have assented readily. Skinner would pro-

bably have laughed. But, after all, it would be no wonder if these little "unconsidered trifles" should escape, when more important words perish.

2. A low term of address, rather expressive of extreme familiarity than of contempt, as JEN. explains *min*, which is used in the same manner in the West.

Ex. "'Tis all true, *mun*;" corr. perhaps of *man*.

MUNG, *s.* a mixture of coarse meal with milk or pot-liquor for the food of dogs, pigs, or poultry. From *ming*, q. v. BR. *mang*.

MUNG, *part. pass.* from *ming*, kneaded; mixed up.

MURE-HEARTED, *adj.* soft-hearted; meek-spirited; easily moved to pity or to tears. Fr. *mur*.

MURE-MOUTHED, *adj.* using soft words. An expressive word not seeming to require so much explanation and illustration as *mealy-mouthed* in T. J.

MUSH, *adj.* guardedly silent. A spy, under the French Police, is called *mouchard*, or *mouche*. Hence, no doubt our word.

MUSIC, *s.*

1. To play upon the *music*, is a very general vulgar term.
2. A *piece* of music, meaning any musical instrument, is perhaps our own.

N.

NAB, *v.* to catch, as a bird catches insects in its bill.
A. S. *næbbe*, rostrum.

NABBITY, *adj.* short in stature, but full grown. Said of a diminutive female. A ludicrous derivative

from *nab*; as if the little creature might be taken up between one's finger and thumb.

NABBLE, *v.* to gnaw. A stronger word than *nibble*, by change of vowel. Mice *nibble* and rats *nabble* our victuals, and hares and rabbits our growing vegetables.

NAB-NANNY, *s.* a louse. Whence the odd name? Perhaps from *Nanny*, the nurse-maid, *nabbing* them in her nursing's head.

NAGGLE, *v.* to pace and toss the head in a stiff and affected manner, like a young nag, bitted and reined to be shewn at a fair. Particularly applied to affected females.

NANCY, *s.* a small lobster. *m. s.*

NARROW-WRIGGLE, *s.* apparently a corrupt form of *Erriwiggle*, *q. v.* But it may have arisen easily and very significantly from the propensity of that insect to *wriggle* itself into narrow crevices.

NATION, *adj.* very; extreme.

NATIONLY, *adv.* very; extremely. Both these are commonly understood to be abbreviations of a most awful word. Besides being quite ungrammatical in their application, they are, in themselves, altogether void of meaning. If their syllable be restored, indeed, they have a horrible one. It may be worth recording, for the benefit of those who, as it seems, cannot give vent to their choler without swearing, or something like it (and certainly the less like it the better), that an effectual escape has been happily discovered, and successfully practised many years, by substituting a new and harmless head to these two

decapitated words. A highly respectable yeoman, feeling himself often moved to wrath by the lazy fellows or dishonest rascals, who annoy him on a very extensive farm, and sometimes strongly tempted to swear at them, being too sensible a man to use foolish half-words, without any meaning at all, and a great deal too serious to utter the entire word on ordinary occasions, or under the influence of anger, has adopted a substitute for the suppressed part of it, quite free from objection, and sufficiently significant. "*Hangnation* seize you," says he, "for a good-for-nothing rascal!" "What a *hangnation* thief that Smith is!" Transeat in exemplum! In plain English, and in sober sadness, the author heartily recommends the adoption of his good neighbour's word to those whom it may concern; and would be highly gratified could he know that the same substitution had in any case been made in consequence of this little edifying anecdote. JEN. BR.

NATIVE, *s.* but as the word is in its nature an adjective, place must necessarily be understood. Ex. "Norwich is my *native*." Instances might be produced, even from the learned languages, of adjectives, under favour of the figure ellipsis, thus claiming and being allowed to enjoy the right of substantives.

NATTLE, *v.* to be bustling and stirring about trifles; or very busy in doing nothing at all. Perhaps, *A. s. naht*, nihilum.

NATURE, *s.* natural feeling or affection. A simple old woman, as a reason for loving one of her daughters more than the others, said she had more *na-*

ture in her." This is exactly the phrase of SH. Hamlet, "If thou hast *nature* in thee, bear it not."

The old woman certainly did not quote SH.

NAUGHTY-BACK, *s.* a term of gentle reproof, for the most part used to children. It is not so severe as the O. E. "*naughty pack*," which combines the imputations of vice and folly. But if not a corruption, it is a softened variation of it.

NAY, NAY-SAY, *s.* right or opportunity of refusal.

Ex. "Give me the *nay-say*, or the *nay*, of it," means "Let me have the first choice, so that I may refuse it, if I think proper."

NAY-WORD, *s.*

1. A watch-word; pass-word; private token; whosoever cannot give it must not be admitted or trusted, as the case may be. SH. Merry Wives of Windsor, "In any case have a *nay-word*."
2. A bye-word; a laughing-stock. SH. Twelfth Night, "I will gall him into a *nay-word*."

NAZLE, NAZZLE, *s.* a ludicrous dimin. of ass.

NEAR, *adj.* pinching; penurious; clipping close. Ex. "Mr. A. is a very *near* man,"

NEAR, *s.* the fat of the kidneys. PE says the kidneys themselves. But it is not so with us. From its softness and delicacy it may well be conceived to come from, A. S. *nyra*, tenellus. In Suffolk it is pronounced "*nyre*."

NEAR-NOW, *adv.* a little while ago. PE. imputes this word to us. But where did he hear it?

NECK-BREAK, *s.* complete ruin. Ex. "The fall of prices was his *neck-break*."

NECKING, NECKINGER, s. a cravat or any other covering for the neck.

NECK-WEED, s. a common ludicrous name of hemp.

NEEDLE, s. a piece of wood put down by the side of a post, to strengthen it ; a spur.

NEEDLES, s. pl. a common weed among corn, so called from its long and sharp seeds. *Scandix pecten*, Lin.

NEP, NIP, s. the herb cat-mint, *Nepeta cataria*, Lin. which being covered with a fine white down, has given rise to a common simile, "as white as *nip*."

NERVISH, adj. affected with weakness of nerves.

Primâ facie, the word seems to be a corruption of *nervous*, and therefore out of its proper place. But, in point of fact, the word *nervous* itself, in this sense, is a mere modern abuse, directly opposite to its import in the best authors of different ages, and even of the present. Mr. Pegge very judiciously recommends *nervish* to be substituted for *nervous*, to signify weakness of the nerves. And by all means let it be put down to our credit that we have anticipated his recommendation by many years.

NEST-GULP, s. the smallest and weakest of a brood of nestlings.

NETTLE-SPRINGE, s. what is more generally called *nettle-rash*. A small tingling and itching eruption, looking and feeling as if it had *sprung* up from the stinging of nettles.

NEWDICLE, s. something new ; just as a miracle is something wonderful. A fanciful and licentious fabrication, perhaps never used at all seriously.

NEWELTY, *s.* novelty. Certainly *o. e.* and among other authorities may be mentioned Cavendish's *Life of Cardinal Wolsey*.

NEWS, *v.* to tell as news. *Ex.* "It was *newsed* at market yesterday."

NEXING, NEXTING, *adj.* very near; coming *next* to; or, as it was probably never before written, it might rather have been *nexten*, and derived from *A. s. nextan*, *postea*.

NICKED, *part.* exactly hit; in the very *nick*; at the precise point. Another of Sir Thomas Browne's words at which one cannot but marvel. The very same authorities are produced by Johnson, for the verb *nick* in this sense, as for the adjective **CLEVER** (*q. v.*) those of Butler, L'Estrange, and South. It is not possible to conceive that the word had at that time any other sense in which it might be considered as a provincial word. Ray explains it thus.

NICKLED, *part.* beaten down and intricately entangled, as growing corn or grass by rain and wind. Might not this be the word meant by Sir Thomas Browne, and imperfectly heard?

NIDGET, *v.* to assist a woman in her travail. All the *dict.*, old and new, give to this word the sense of trifling or foolery, and derive it from *Fr. nigaud*. With us, its meaning is too serious to admit of such an etymon. We must prefer another, which seems indeed, implied in a very common phrase used on such occasions. One village gossip says to another, "I am to be with neighbour Brown in her *need*." *A. s. nide*, *necessitas*.

NIFFLE, NIFFLE-NAFFLE, *v.* to trifle; to play with one's work.

NIGGER, *s.*

1. A short, half-suppressed *neigh*; and a diminutive of that word. *SC. N.*

2. A sneering, contemptuous giggle.

BR. nicher.

NIGGLE, *v.*

1. To eke out with extreme care.

2. To cheat dextrously *Ex.* "He *niggled* him of his money."

NILDY-WILDY, *adv.* whether one would or not; *nilled he, willed he.* *A.S. nillan, nolle, willan, velle.*

NINE-HOLES, *s. pl.*

1. A rustic game; or, indeed, more than one. In one of them, nine round holes are made in the ground, and a ball aimed at them from a certain distance. This is supposed in *N. G.* to be the modern form (whether subject to the same rules of playing or not) of the "Nine men's morris," mentioned by *SH.* We have that game, and it is different, being played on a flat surface. In our other game of *nine-holes*, the holes are made in a board with a number over each, through one of which the ball is to pass. This must be something like *Trou-madame* (of which, indeed, there are many varieties or resemblances), only that it is played on the ground, and in the open air.

2. A fish of the lamprey kind, not uncommon in our Fen ditches.

NIP, *v.* to pinch close in domestic management.

NIP, *s.* a parsimonious housewife. *BR. nip-cheese.*

NIPT, *part.* pinched. Phr. "He lies *nipt*," he is hard run.

NISY, *s.* a very poor simpleton. Fr. *niais*.

NITTLE, *adj.* Not a corruption or mispronunciation of *little*; in addition to the import of that word, it includes the idea of *neatness*, or prettiness, and seems to come from A.S. *nytlie*.

NOAH'S ARK, *s.* a cloud, appearing when the sky is for the most part clear; much resembling, or at least supposed to resemble, a large boat turned bottom upwards. It is considered as a sure prognostic of rain.

NOBBUT, *comp. conj.* only, or except. It is a confused jumble of *none but*, or *nothing but*. Ex. "I keep *nobbut* two cows." "Mr. Smith is a good master, *nobbut* he is too strict." BR. W.C.

NOBBY, *s.* a fool; also a very young foal.

NOBLE, *s.* the navel. Isl. *nabla*, umbilicus.

NOG, *s.* a sort of strong heady ale. It seems to be peculiar to Norwich. It is, however, in T. J. on the authority of Swift.

"Walpole laid a quart of *nog* on 't."

The Dean was certainly well skilled in the vulgar tongue; and it may be that he was acquainted with this local word, and meant to sneer at Sir Robert. It does not prove that *nog* was a general beverage then, any more than it is now.

NOGGING, *s.* courses of brick-work, between or below upright posts or studs in the construction of some walls. W. C.

NO'HN, *s.* an awkward syncopated form of the word nothing. Ex. "I don't know *no'hn* about it."

NOILS, *s. pl.* coarse refuse locks of wool, of which mops and *dwiles* are made.

NOISE, *v.* and *s.* *V. MAKE.*

NO-MATTERS, *s. pl.* but moderate; nothing to boast of. Ex. "The squire is *no-matters* of a shot." "Is the parson a clever churchman? *No great matters.*"
BR. CR.

NONCE, *s.* In T. J. it is declared not to be in use. We will rescue and vindicate it. It is in very common use. "He did that for the *nonce*." It always means something offensive; which favours the opinion of JUN. that it is from *noiance*. In fact another form of that word.

NONE, *adv.* not at all. Ex. "It is *none* too late." In SH. Measure for Measure to "answer *none*," is to make no answer.

NONEARE, *adv.* not till now. So says Ray. But we know nothing of the word whatever. Sir Thomas Browne might. Isl. *nunær*, modo. R.

NONNOCK, *s.* an idle whim; a childish fancy. Connected no doubt with the following.

NONNY, *v.* to trifle; to play the fool. A young woman who received a serious injury from an accidental blow, said it happened when she was *nonnying* with Robin B. Indeed, it is chiefly applied to the fondling and toying of sweet-hearts, and when the fair one is coy, and cries "be quiet," "you sha'n't," &c. It may be conceived to come from Low. Fr. *nenni*.

NON-PLUNGE, *s.* nonplus. It seems most regular to

- enter this word here, though, as it was probably never written, some doubt may exist whether it may be a *non-plunge* or an *on-plunge*. The latter, indeed, is preferable, as it would be very pregnant with meaning. A man in that sort of difficulty which is called a non-plus has nothing for it, but to *plunge* onwards, and get through as well as he can.
- NOONINGS**, *s. pl.* the dinner of reapers, &c. still taken at noon. A. S. *non-mete*, prandium.
- NOR**, *conj.* than. For our use of this word we have the pride and honour to allege no less than the sovereign authority of King James I. who, in his immortal Treatise on Dæmonology, says, that "sparing the lives of witches is no less a sin in the magistrate, *nor* it was in Saul sparing Agag." BR.
- NORATION**, *s.* a loud rumour, or, as it were, a roaring general publication of what was meant to be kept secret. JEN.
- NOTCHET**, *s.* a notable feat; something that deserves to be marked, recorded, noted, *notched*.
- NOWL**, **NOBLE**, *s.* the navel. The vowels *o* and *a*, and the consonants *b*, *v*, and *w*, run very easily into each other. Isl. *nabla*, umbilicus, JEN. *nawl*.
- NUDDLE**, *v.* to hold down the head. Freq. of *nod*.
- NUM**, *adj.* stupid. Ex. "As *num* as a post." It has no such sense in the DICTT. Yet *numskull* is admitted. Why not the adjective *num* in our sense? SK. says *num* is *membris captus*. We mean *mente captus*, or something near it. It may be the participle of A. S. *niman*, cessare. BR.
- NUMER**, *s.* a number. Not that we substitute it in general usage for *number*. We use that word as

other people do. It seems, in fact, as if, having got the word *numerous*, we looked back to find the substantive belonging to it, not knowing *number* to be so. And when we have got it, give it a stronger signification; for by *numer* we always mean a great number. "What a *numer* on 'em there was!"

NUMPOST, *s.* an imposthume. This dreadful malady in the head must of course produce stupor. We should say, it makes a man "as *num* as a post."
V. NUM.

NUNTY, *adj.* very plain, and old-fashioned. Applicable to female dress only. Most probably clumsily formed from the word *nun*.

NUT, *s.* the pancreas, or sweet-bread, of veal or lamb.

NUTCROME, *s.* a stick, with a crook at the end of it, to pull down the boughs of filberts, or hazels, in order to gather the fruit. Walnuts are dashed, or brushed, with a long pole. To save the trouble of climbing, other fruits are too often shaken, and much damaged. This implement, though used for very different purposes, generally bears the same name. So did its synonym in Shakspeare's time, *Nuthook*. It was then, indeed, metaphorically applied, both to a thief and a catchpole, which our word is not.

O.

OATFLIGHT, *s.* the chaff of oats, much lighter than that of any other sort of grain, and which may most properly be said to fly. It is used by the poor for

the stuffing of beds ; and those of the rich, who mean either to mortify or indulge themselves by sleeping on straw mattresses, would find it answer the purpose much better, being more easily stirred and shaken.

OATMEAL, *s.* grits. Oats husked and split, but not ground. We never reduce our oats to meal, though we use the name. We are therefore unacquainted with the excellence of the Northern oat-cake, and only use what we improperly call *meal* in the composition of gruel, or of puddings in time of scarcity.

ODDS AND ENDS, *ss. pl.* a phrase which Johnson stigmatises incidentally as provincial, and does not insert in its place. It should be *ords* (i.e. beginnings) and *ends* ; and upon the whole is treated as a contemptible phrase. We think otherwise, and are determined to retain it, so long as we find the phrase itself, and the things signified by it, occasionally useful. The words, one or both, in their admitted senses, mean remnants, scattered pieces, fragments, &c. "We will contentedly continue to make our Saturday's dinner on the *odds and ends* of the larder and pantry."

ODIOUS, *adj.* ill-tasted, or ill-scented. As the senses of taste and smell are very like to be connected, this may perhaps be a mispronunciation of *odorous*.

ODMENTS, *s. pl.* scraps ; odd bits ; much the same as *odds and ends*. **BR.**

OLD, *adj.* customary ; what has commonly happened in like case. **O. E.** When Nurse Quickly, in the *Merry Wives of Windsor*, hears the Doctor coming, and conceals Master Slender's man, she says, "we

shall have *old* abusing of God's patience and the King's English." We should say, "If we are found out, we shall have *old* scolding and storming." "There will be *old* cramming and tippling at the Hawkey." BR.

OLD-SHOCK, *s.* a mischievous goblin, in the shape of a great dog, or of a calf, haunting high ways and foot-paths in the dark. Those who are so fool-hardy as to encounter him, are sure to be at least thrown down and severely bruised, and it is well if they do not get their ancles sprained or broken; of which instances are recorded and believed.

OLD-SOWS, *s. pl.* millepedes, woodlice. The species which rolls itself up on being touched, if swallowed in that state as pills, are believed to have much medicinal virtue in scrofulous cases, especially if they be gathered from the roots of aromatic pot-herbs, mint, marjoram, &c.

OLD-WITCH, *s.* the cock-chaffer, or midsummer dor, which, after sunset, on a fine evening in June or July, "wheels its droning flight" almost as much to the terror and annoyance of some delicate ladies, as if it were a witch taking the air on her broom-stick.

OLF, *s.* V. BLOOD-OLF and GREEN-OLF.

OLLAND, *s.* arable land which has been laid down in grass more than two years. *q. d.* *old-land*.

ONCE, *adv.* at some time or other. SH. Merry Wives of Windsor, "*once* to night," i. e. at some convenient hour, yet unfixed.

ONE-AND-THIRTY, a game at cards, much resembling Vingt-un, but of very venerable antiquity,

assuredly, for it is alluded to, by Bishop Latimer in one of his sermons. It was, many years ago, called *one-and-thirty* turn-tail, and *one-and-thirty* bone-ace. The first name was from turning up the last-drawn card, to shew whether the number was exactly made up, or exceeded; the second, from the fortunate contingency of drawing an ace after two tens; the ace, counted for eleven, made up the game, and was certainly a good ace. It is still played by children.

ONTO, *prep.* upon. Ex. "I will lay my stick *onto* you." T.

OPINION, *v.* to opine. The awkward use of substantives as verbs, is not very uncommon, even in those who do not speak provincially. "I *opinion* so," is, "I am of that opinion."

ORGANS, *s. pl.* an organ, the musical instrument. A "pair of *organs*" was the name of it in O. E. It is not yet extinct. Wherein the parity consists has, indeed, never been explained. But no body scruples to talk of a "pair of stairs," which is full as absurd.

OVEN-BIRD, *s.* the long-tailed titmouse. *Parus caudatus*, Lin. The bird itself is, indeed, seldom called by this name, but most commonly the long-tailed *pick-cheese*. The allusion is to the nest.

OVEN'S-NEST, *s.* the nest of that very pretty bird. It is otherwise, and more descriptively at least, called a *pudding-poke's* nest. Several other birds build a covered nest, more nearly resembling an oven, so far as proportion can settle the propriety of the comparison. This is the most elaborate of

them all ; of considerable depth, so that when incubation is going on at the bottom, the long and beautiful tail of the mother bird being turned upwards, is not only effectually protected from the weather, but closes the aperture, near the top.

OVER-FLUSH, *s.* superfluity. Commonly reckoned a corruption of *over-plus*. But it is, in fact, a much better word ; *over-plus* is manifestly a hybrid half Gothic and half Latin. The second syllable of our word is indeed originally Latin also. But *fluxus* has passed into more than one of the Gothic dialects in the form of *fluss* or *flush*.

OVERGIVE, *v.* to thaw.

OVERHEW, *v.* to overgrow, and overpower ; as strong and luxuriant plants *overhew* those of humbler growths.

OVERWHART, *adv.* across. To plough *overwhart* is to plough at right angles to the former furrows.

OVERWORN, *part.* Apparel worn as long as is thought fit, thrown aside, and given to servants, or the poor is called "*overworn* clothes."

OUT-HOLL, *v.* to scour a ditch, and make it as it was at first completely *holl*. *q. d.* *hollow*.

OUTLAY, *s.* expenditure. Ex. " I made a great *outlay* before I brought my farm into profit." *L. sc.*

BR.

OUTS, *s. pl.* *V. MAKE.*

OUTSHIFTS, *s. pl.* the skirts, boundaries, extreme and least regarded parts of a town, parish, farm, or garden. Ex. " He lives somewhere in the *outshifts* of the town."

OWE, *v.* to possess by right. " Mr. Brown *owes* that

farm." In many applications of this word, there is a strong resemblance to the sense of *debeo*, in Latin, and *ὀφλισκανω* in Greek. BR.

OYLET-HOLE, *s.* an eye-let hole. A perforation in a garment, to admit a lace, or by way of ornament in trimmings and fine works. Taken more directly from the Fr. *oeil*.

P.

PACK-GATE, *s.* a gate on a pack-way, which often lies through inclosed grounds. Many of such ways and gates, still retain their names and use in High Suffolk.

PACK-MAN, *s.* a hawker; one who travels about the country with packs of goods. L. SC. BR.

PACK-RAG-DAY, *s.* Old Michaelmas day, on which servants in the country pack up their tatters and go to new services.

PACK-WAY, *s.* a narrow way by which goods could be conveyed only on pack-horses.

PAD, *v.* to make a path by walking on a surface before untracked, as in new fallen snow, or land lately ploughed. A. S. *paad*, callis.

PADDLE, *v.* to trample; applied principally to children.

PAGE, *s.* the lad attending on a shepherd. Can we be indebted to Romance for this transfer of a term from chivalrous to pastoral life?

PAIGLE, *s.* a cowslip. The flowers are dried by some rustic simplers, and an infusion of them, under the

name of *paigle-tea*, is administered as a very mild and wholesome soporific. Certainly it has that effect; and so, in different cases, has *paigle-wine*, which is by far the more palatable medicine. The word "*paigle*" is, in Suffolk, applied to the crow-foot, *Ranunculus bulbosus*, Lin. A. s. *pæll*, tinctura. "The cowslip freaked with jet."

PALTRY, *s.* rubbish; refuse or trash of any sort. Teut. *palt*, fragmentum.

PAMMENT, *s.* a square paving brick. Contracted from pavement.

PAMPLE, *v.* to trample lightly. A child *pamples* about upon a walk or a bed in a garden newly raked; or upon a floor newly washed. A slight raking or wiping soon puts out the traces. But if a heavy-healed fellow *slods* over either, the work must all be done over again.

PAN, *s.* the hard earth below that which is moved by the plough. Some etymologists would be tempted to consider this as *το παν*, the whole unbroken mass. It may be so. But the word is more likely to have been metaphorically used (however harsh the figure) from resemblance to A. s. *panne*, the scull of the earth.

PAN, *v.* to be hardened, as the surface of some soil is, by strong sunshine suddenly succeeding heavy rain. It seems a comparison (*parvis magna*) with the operation of fire in a pottery.

PANCAKE-DAY, *s.* Shrove Tuesday. Ill luck betides the family in which *pancakes* are not served up on that day. BR.

PANCHION, *s.* a large broad pan. Augm. of pan.

PANE, *s.* a regular division of some sorts of husbandry work, as digging, sowing, weeding, &c. It seems to have been figuratively taken from the *panes*, or stripes of cloth mentioned in B. A. Indeed, that old sense is still in use among us. *Panèd* curtains are made of long and narrow stripes of different patterns or colours sewed together. Therefore from A. *s.* *pan*, lacinia.

PANHIN, PANCHIN, *s.* a small *pan*. It may be observed, that these words, with *panchion* before, exhibit, in this one instance, an odd resemblance to the formation of augmentatives and diminutives in the Italian language. There, indeed, they may be formed, almost at pleasure, from one word; and much grace and variety this facility of formation seems to give. The augmentatives generally terminate in *one*; much as our *panchion* does, however we stumbled upon such a resemblance. But in the case of diminutives we must utterly fail. With our harsh consonant terminations, we cannot come near the sweetness and liquid fluency of their *ino* and *ina*.

PÁR, *s.* an inclosed place for domestic animals, for calves, perhaps, in particular. The syllable *par* in composition, signifies separation, in many languages. To which in particular the sample may belong, it may not be easy to determine; unless we cut the difficulty short by going at once to the Gr. *παρά*.

PARFIT, *adj.* perfect. This word, like many others, originally Latin, came to us through the French; and probably very soon after it was imported,

Wickliffe used it with this very slight deviation from its French form. Let not the poor rustic then be reviled as a *parfit* barbarian, if he does the same. BR. W. W. R.

PARFITLY, *adv.* perfectly. It follows its *adj.* of course; and it is warranted on the same venerable authority; the only change being the substitution of the English adverbial termination *ly* for the French *ment*. BR. W. W. R.

PARTLESS, *adv.* in part; partly. Perhaps the syllable *less* might be thought to express the intended idea more strongly.

PAR-YARD, *s.* the farm-yard, which is itself well separated and inclosed, and contains *pars* for the many and various animals which inhabit it.

PASH, *v.* to beat any thing brittle into small fragments. BR. to crush.

PASS, *v.* to "pass the bell," is to toll it for the purpose of announcing a death. On the day of the funeral, the bell is not said to be *passed*, but tolled or rung. The phrase alludes (with an absurd misapplication of the word *pass*) to what was anciently called the passing bell, otherwise the soul-peel, rung while the sick lay in extremity, to admonish those who heard it to pray for the soul while it was *passing*—not the bell.

PATCH-UPON, *v.* to impute blame rashly or wrongfully. Ex. "He *patched* it upon me, who knew nothing of the matter." It seems a figurative expression, meaning the act of throwing dirt, with the hope that some of it may stick. If, however, an

etymon be insisted upon, it may be from A. S. *pæcan*, *decipere falsa specie*, or *pæccan*, *mentiri*.

PAVED, *part.* turned hard, as a clayey soil in dry weather. C. HAW.

PAWTS, *s. pl.* flat boards fastened on the feet, to enable men to walk safely on mud, or ooze. Fr. *patte*.

PAX-WAX, *s.* the strong tendon in the neck of animals. It is a word which has no proper claim to admission here, for it is quite general; yet must be admitted, because it is on Sir Thomas Browne's list. It must certainly have been in use in his time. And it is very strange he should not have heard it till he came into Norfolk. Ray, in the Preface to N. C. makes no remark to this effect, but takes this as he finds it with the other words. Yet he had himself used it on his great work on the Creation, and to all appearance as a word well known. He spells it *pack-wax*, indeed, but that can surely make no difference. He not only gives no derivation but declines giving one, at the same time declaring his own knowledge of the very extensive, if not general use of the word. The fact is, that it is not even confined to the English language. It is used by Linnæus, somewhere in the Upsal Amœnitates Academicæ. A friend, who undertook the search, has not been able to find the passage; but it is not likely that any thing explanatory would be found. Indeed, it is a sort of *crux etymologorum*. They, very reasonably, do not care to come near it. And they might all frankly avow, as Ray does, that they "have nothing to say to it." BB. has *fix-fax*.

PAY, *v.* to beat. L. sc.

PEAGOOSE, *s.* one who has an aspect both sickly and silly. It is a compound of *peak* and *goose*.

PECKISH, *adj.* hungry ; disposed to be pecking.

PECURIOUS, *adj.* very minutely and scrupulously exact. It seems to be fantastically fabricated from *peak* and *curious* ; importing a prying curiosity to see that all is quite right. Nothing has occurred to prove it O. E.

PED, *s.* a pannier ; a large wicker basket with a lid. Two are commonly used, and called a "pair of *peds*," one on each side of a horse, in which pork, fowls, butter, and eggs, are carried to market, and fish hawked about the country. On the top of the equipoised load, a broad seat is afforded for a rider. This mode of conveyance is not, indeed, so common as it was some years ago, being very much superseded by the use of market carts ; but is still in existence, exactly as it is represented by Gay,

Between her swagging pannier's load,
A farmer's wife to market rode.

One figure in the picture must indeed be altered, No farmer's wife, now-a-days would submit to be so conveyed. None carries her own butter and eggs to market, even when more of those articles are produced than is wanted for family consumption. We must substitute the poor higer, who buys these things up, and carries them to market. Johnson mistakes Tusser, when he supposes him by a *ped* to mean a pack-saddle. Tusser could not have confounded the *ped* with a *pad*, which must be placed on the horse's back to prevent its being

galled and excoriated by the strong leathern strops which hold the two *peds* together. The *ped* is still used, and retains its old name, when conveyed in a cart; a mode almost without exception in the great market at Norwich, and arising from the important modern improvement in roads. After all, if there be any who insist on calling a *ped* a *pad*, when they consider its bulging shape, and swagging motion, they cannot well object to deriving it from A. s. *pad*, bufo.

PED-BELLY, *s.* a belly round and protuberant like a *ped*.

PEDDER, *s.* one who carries wares in a *ped*, pitches it in open market, and sells from it.

PEDDER'S-WAY, *s.* In the old maps of Norfolk a road is laid down, under this name, from the north-west extremity, called St. Edmund's point, over the champaign part of the county to the interior and central parts. It was much frequented of old, and goods of more value and importance conveyed along it, than are now wont to be carried in *peds*. Some few reaches of it here and there still retain the old name; but the whole of its ancient course cannot be made out, being of course lost in the inclosures which have taken place in modern times.

PEELINGS, *s. pl.* parings, as of apples, turnips. &c.
BR.

PEE-WEE, *adj.* peaking and pining; whining and whimpering. A corruption or licentious variation of *peevish*.

PEE-WIC, *v.* to peak and pine, &c. W. C. W. W. R.
BR. PE. to spy with one eye.

PEG, *v.* to thump with sharp knuckles. W. W. R. BR.

PEG-TRANTUM, *s.* a galloping, rantipole girl; a hoydenish mauther. *Tranty* occurs in R. N. C. as applied to a child wise and forward above his age. Whatever may be the meaning of the word *trant*; in whatever language it may exist; it may have given origin to both these words. Our hoyden must be conceived to be strong and forward, though not wise above her age. Why she is called *Pég*, it is impossible to conjecture.

PELT, *s.*

1. A sheep's skin with the wool on. In R. N. C. it is a raw skin or hide without the hair or wool.
2. A game at cards somewhat like whist; but played by three only. It may be so called because each playing on his own account, attacks or *pelts* both his adversaries. Or it may have its name from being thought a *paltry* (in O. E. a *palting*) game, in comparison of that which it is supposed to resemble.

PELT-WOOL, *s.* the wool which is shorn from the hide after the animal's death.

PEND, *v.*

1. To press or pinch. Commonly said of apparel which does not fit. Ex. "The shoe *pends* here." A phrase sometimes used figuratively for "that is the tender point," or the like.
2. To incline or lean. "The wall *pends* this way." It seems connected with, Lat. *pendeo*.

PENMAN, *s.* any one who uses the pen in filling up blanks; taking minutes of proceedings, &c. as the justice's clerk; the auctioneer's writer, &c.

PENSE, *v.* to be fretful. JAM. to be thoughtful. Fr. *penser*.

PENSY, *adj.* fretful; uneasy. Chiefly applied to wayward children. JAM. thoughtful; self-conceited.

PERCEIVANCE, *s.* faculty of perception; aptitude to learn. Ex. "The boy is a dunce, and has no *perceivance*."

PERISH, *v. a.* to destroy. Ex. "The frost has *perished* all my tender plants." "His eye was *perished* by a blow." O. E. SH. 2 Hen. VI. "Might in thy palace *perish* Margaret." W. C.

PERK, *v.* to perch. Another form of the same word; older, and why not better?

PERK, *s.*

1. A perch. A legitimate noun substantive.

2. A wooden frame against which sawn timber is set up to dry. So called from its resemblance in form to a perch in a bird-cage.

PERK, *adj.* brisk; lively; proud. SP. "*Perk* as a peacock." Not obsolete.

PERRY-DANCERS, *s. pl.* the Northern lights. The *peries* or *perries* are the fairies. There is fancy and elegance in this word. It is corrupted; it seems in L. SC. to *merry-dancers* or *pretty-dancers*. Certainly neither is by any means equal to our form. Mr. Brockett has *merry-dancers*, and our word also, which he seems willing to force into *pyrrhy-dancers*. But surely an allusion to the revels of the fairies is more likely among our ancestors, than to the *Pyrrhic-dance* of the ancients.

PESS, *s.* a hassock to kneel on at church. A pretty certain corruption of *bass*.

PETERMAN, *s.* a fisherman; a fellow-craftsman of the Apostle Peter. *o. n.* It is still in use, it seems, on the Suffolk coast. *m. s.*

PÉTITION, *s.* an adjuration. *Ex.* "He took strong *petitions* that he was innocent."

PETMAN, *s.* the smallest pig in the litter. From *pet* a fondling, or rather the *Fr. petit*, and *men* in its vague sense, *q. v.*

PHEESY, *adj.* fretful; querulous; irritable; sore. The connected verb *pheese*, is in *SH.* Taming of the Shrew.

PICK-CHEESE, *s.* the tit-mouse. Perhaps the word includes most of the *Lin. genus Parus*, or all its species. Yet it does not appear that any of these pretty little ever-busy birds are justly chargeable with attacking our cheeses. If they get into dairies or cheese-chambers at all, it must be in pursuit of the insects which breed there, insects being their proper prey.

PICKEREL-WEED, *s.* Most likely a species of *Potamogeton*, *Lin.*, though inquiry has not yet discovered it. We have *tench-weed*, which is *Pot. natans*, why not also *pickerel-weed*? "Honest Izaack Walton" tells, with becoming gravity, and doubtless on the weighty authority of Gesner, that "this weed, and other glutinous matter, with the help of the sun's heat in some particular months and some ponds adapted to it by nature, do become *pikes*!" We must be content to take his word for it, not being likely to obtain the concurrence of all

the circumstances necessary to make the experiment. That the word exists in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, together with a notion, that the sun's heat helps the breeding of *pike* among these weeds, not from the substance of them, we learn on the authority of M. S. The fact is, that the *pike*, and other fresh water fish, deposits its spawn in narrow stripes upon the stalks and leaves of the Potomogeton, and other water-plants.

PICKLE, *v.* to glean a field a second time, when, of course, very little can be found. It can surely be nothing more than a mere dimin. of *pick*, and though it be so exactly apposite, one must not be tempted to derive it from Ital. *picaolo*.

PICKLIN, *s.* a sort of very coarse linen, of which seedsmen make their bags, dairy maids their aprons, &c. *Lin* is an A. S. word for flax; from the Latin *linum* of course. We have it in the compound linseed; and this is another compound, importing that the manufacture is from the coarser parts or *pickings* of the flax.

PIE, *s.* the heap of earth and straw piled over potatoes to protect them from frost.

PIE-WIPE, *s.* the pewit or common lapwing. The bird has nothing in common with those which Ornithologists call *pies*. Both the names are from the cry of the bird, and probably we vary from the common one, because we suppose we have hit on a nearer imitation of it. But it really does not seem that we have. It is *pee-wipe* in L. sc. and in the modern Swedish, *wipa*.

PIG-BACK, *adv.* on the back. In the DICTT. *pick-*

back, *pick-a-back*, and *pick-a-pack*. Our's is the best word. One boy carries another on his back "ut rusticus agnum," and why not porcum, to make the phrase more ludicrous?

PIKE OFF! *interj.* begone! "Shoulder your *pike* and march." JEN. *hike* off. L. SC. *peg* off.

PILCH, *s.* a flannel wrapper for an infant. In CH. it means a coat of skins. SH. Romeo and Juliet it means a scabbard, as made of leather. It is from A. S. *pylce*, toga pellicea. W. W. R.

PILGER, *s.* a fish-spear. It may possibly mean a *pillager*, by contraction. This is at least one common and successful mode of robbing private fisheries. Or it may be from A. S. *pul*, stagnum.

PIMGENET, *s.*

1. A very delicate and mincing diminutive of *pie-mgenet* for *pomegranate*.
2. A small red pimple. Possibly a hyperbolically figurative application of the first sense.

PIMPLE, *s.* the head. It must be a diminutive as well as a feeble head which is denominated. The word in such a sense is most hyperbolically used.

PIN-BASKET, *s.* the youngest child in a family. The origin of so odd a name was probably this. When the birth of a first child is expected, and a basket of child-bed linen is to be provided, the female friends of the expectant mother, made contributions to it, principally of their own needle work, as laced caps, cambric robes, silk wrappers, &c. Among them, a large pincushion is always conspicuously ornamental. It is generally made of white satten, trimmed with silk or silver fringe,

with tassels at the corners. It is always the work of some unmarried lady, to whom it affords an exercise of her taste and ingenuity in disposing pins of different lengths, inserted into the cushion only by their points, in various and fanciful forms, so as to produce some resemblance of a light and elegant basket. These pins are never drawn out for use. The most sensible and experienced nurses would think that a thing of very evil omen; and others are provided in plenty. So when the good woman has had a safe getting up it is put aside, and brought forward again on the next occasion. On the birth of the last, it would seem to fall to him or her as a sort of heirloom. Indeed, why he or she should be actually called the *pin-basket*, does not seem at all clear. In such matters one must not stand upon niceties and exactness. There is a case in point, and a strong one too: In the University of Cambridge, the scholar whose name stands last of all on the printed list of honours at the bachelors' commencement in January, is scoffingly said to gain the "wooden spoon." He is also, however improperly, very currently himself called "the wooden spoon." A young academic coming into the country immediately after this great competition in which he had conspicuously distinguished himself, was asked by a plain country gentleman, "Pray, Sir, is my Jack a wrangler?" "No, Sir." Now Jack had confidently pledged himself to his uncle that he would take his degree with honour. "A senior optime?" "No, Sir," "Why, what was he then?" "Wood-

en spoon!" "Best suited to his wooden head," said the mortified inquirer.

PINCH, *s.* a very parsimonious economist.

PINGLE, *v.* to pick one's food; to eat squeamishly.

It may possibly have arisen from turning over every particle as it were with a pin. Fr. *épingle*. In L. sc. however, the same word means to labour without progress, and is derived from Sui-G. *pyng*, labor.

PINNING, *s.* the low masonry which supports a frame of stud-work.

PIN-OF-THE-THROAT, *s.* the uvula, which tapers almost to a point when the mouth is held wide open. *sn.* Rom. and Jul. "pin of the heart;" the point or narrow end of it. Teut. *pinne*, summitas.

PIN-PATCHES, **PIN-PAUNCHES**, *s. pl.* the small shell fish called perriwinkles, of which vast multitudes are found on our coasts. They are commonly drawn out of their shells with a pin.

PIN-WING, *s.* the pinion of a fowl. As the wing of a fowl, as it is carved at table, includes a part of the flesh of the breast, it has been thought proper perhaps to give a separate and descriptive name to the sharp and bony part of it.

PIPS, *s. pl.*

1. Seeds of fruit. *w. w. r.*
2. Spots on playing cards.
3. Flowers growing in a raceme, umbel, or panicle; every one singly is a pip.

Fr. *pepin*.

PIPPERIDGE, *s.* the barberry tree. But the fruit is always called by its proper name.

P—SS-BED, *s.* the common dandelion, *Leontodon taraxacum*, Lin. In T. J. it is called a yellow flower growing in the grass (or where there is no grass). If it deserved any notice at all under this name, it deserved more. So universally is its diuretic effect known, that it is said to have a name equivalent to this in every language in Europe. What is farther and more remarkable is, that it has also in most languages, a popular name, importing lion's tooth. What association can possibly exist between a lion's mouth and a jordan, it seems very difficult to imagine.

PITCH, *v.* to lay corn or hay on the waggon with a fork. The fork has its name from this process, but the verb is not in the DICTT.

PITCHER, *s.* the labourer who pitches.

PIT-HOLE, *s.* the grave. W. W. R.

PITLE, PICLE, *s.* a small piece of inclosed ground, generally pronounced in the first, but not unfrequently in the second form, and so printed in G. A. Perhaps from Ital. *piccolo*.

PITTER, *v.* to grieve piteously. It has, perhaps, some obscure connexion with *pity*. In use it is always joined with *pine*, for the sake of expressive alliteration. "*Pittering* and *pining*."

PLACKET, *s.* a pocket. With us, it appears to signify simply this, without any of that vague waggish meaning which it seems so have in some old comedies. Here, indeed, as well as there, it is applied only to a woman's pocket.

PLANCHER, *s.* a boarded floor. In SH. Measure for Measure there is a "*planned* gate." It is, no

doubt, from Fr. *planche*. The French, indeed, have the word *plancher* itself, in the sense in which we have it.

PLANETS, *s. pl.* The phrase “by *planets*” means irregularly, capriciously, upon no intelligible principle. In changeable weather the rain and sunshine come and go *by planets*. A man of unsteady mind acts *by planets*; meaning much the same as by fits and starts. Not that those who use the phrase knew one tittle about the planets, or their motions, or that they do move at all, or what manner of things they are. It suffices that they have an occult influence of some sort or other, and are much consulted by fortune tellers, almanac makers, and cunning women.

PLANTING, *s.* a plantation. L. sc.

PLAW, *v.* to parboil.

PLAW, *s.* a slight boiling. If the meat seems likely to be tainted before it can be dressed, the cook must “give it a *plaw*” to check the progress of decay, and, if possible, keep it a little while at a stand. In R. S. E. C. the same word is written *play*. He speaks of a “playing heat,” and says that in Norfolk it is pronounced *plaw*, but offers no derivation. It may be from some French term of cookery, in books not easily accessible; or it may have descended to us from A. S. *pleoh*, periculum.

PLENNY, *v.* to complain fretfully. Sick children are said to *plenny*. In L. sc. it is *plent*. Both from some inflexion of Fr. *plaindre*. W. W. R. BR. *plean*.

PLOUNCE, *v.* to plunge with a loud noise.

PLUGGY, *adj.* short, thick, and sturdy.

PLUM, PLUMB, *adj.* even ; exactly square ; or upright. Ex. "This work stands *plum*."

PLUM-LINE, *s.* a line with a leaden weight at the end, used to ascertain if the work is *plum*.

PLUMPENDICULAR, *adj.* perpendicular. This word has a very good meaning of its own ; but, unluckily, not likely to be perceived by those who use it. The carpenter sets his work upright, or at a square angle, as he calls it, by a hanging-lead, or plum-line. But, however good and valuable the word may be, it is in danger of perishing when village carpenters shall attend, as a part of their education, a course of lectures at a Mechanic's Institution.

PLUNKY, *adj.* short, thick, and heavy. **JAM.** has the verb *plunk*, to plump, or fall downright. Certainly a *plunky* body must gravitate with great velocity and momentum ! C. B. *plungh*, præceps cadere.

POCK-FRETTEN, POCK-BROKEN, *adj.* marked with the small pox. Expressive, however vulgar or unseemly words. *Pock-fredden*. W. W. R. W. C.

POD. *s.* a fat, protuberant belly. **T.** has the word in the sense of a large leathern bag. Certainly very illustrative. Nor less so is its etymon : Teut. *podde*, bufo.

POD-BELLIED, *adj.* having such a belly ; "protenso sesquipede." A man with such a belly is said in Suffolk "to run to *pod*."

PODGE, *v.* to stir and mix together. The same as *poach*. Hodge-podge is commonly enough pronounced if not written for hotch-potch. Fr. *pocher*.

POGRIM, *s.* any sort of fanatic; affecting much seriousness and sanctimony. It seems to coincide in meaning, and approaches pretty nearly in form, to the vulgar cant word *fogram*, an antiquated formalist.

POIT, *adj.* something stronger than *pert*; in farther assuming an air of importance.

POKE, *s.* a bag. It is variously compounded, as a pudding-poke, a flour-poke, a work-poke. Why sneer at it? it is a very good word. BR. A. S. *pocca*, succulus.

POKE, *v.* "To go a poking," is to carry out corn or fetch home grist from the mill in a *poke*.

POKE-CART, **POKING-CART**, **POKER**, *s.* the miller's cart, which is laden with the *pokes* belonging to his customers.

POKE-DAY, *s.* the day on which the allowance of corn is made to labourers, who, in some places, receive a part of their wages in that form.

POLLER, **POLLEN**, **POLLINGER**, *s.* a pollard-tree. T. has the last of the three. He is understood in T. J. to mean brush-wood. He very obviously means top-wood.

POLLIWIGS, *s. pl.* V. PURWIGGY.

POLT, *s.* a hard driving blow. Perhaps from A. S. *pol*, hasta.

POORLY, *adv.* in such a state of ailment as to move our pity. Sometimes we say "poorly ill," which is pleonastic.

POPINJAY, *s.* a parrot. Shakspeare's Henry IV. Hotspur was "pestered with a *popinjay*." The house at the South-west corner of Tombland, at Norwich, abutting West on King Street, which

has now for many years been a private dwelling, is still remembered by some aged persons as a tavern called the *Popinjay*, and bearing the sign of the Green Parrot. Germ. *papagay* rather than Ital. *papagallo*. CH.

POPPET, *s.* a puppet; which, however, is a mere corruption of it. *Poppet* is the old and genuine word which we judiciously and critically retain. Teut. *poppe*, pupa.

POPPIN, *s.* a puppet. It is the French *popin*, which Cotgrave interprets, "spruce, brisk, quaint."

POPPIN-SHEW, *s.* a puppet-shew.

POPPLE, *s.* a poplar tree. Nearer to the Latin *populus* than poplar, which is from Fr. *peuplier*.

POPPLE, *v.* to tumble about with a quick motion, as dumplings, for instance, when the pot boils briskly. Freq. of *pop*. M. S. perhaps. Teut. *popelen*, murmurare.

PORKLING, *s.* a small porker. Dim.

POSE, *s.* a catarrh, or cold in the head. Strype records that, on some occasion or other, Queen Elizabeth was troubled with a *pose*. So are we very often in raw and rafty weather.

POSSE, *s.* a large company, promiscuously gathered together. T. J. says, "an armed multitude." The sense is not so confined by us; though the word certainly originated from the Sheriff's *posse comitatûs*.

POTICARY, *s.* an apothecary. The more ancient word certainly, and ought to be claimed and asserted as such, wheresoever it is still in use. Apothecary, indeed, is above 800 years old, and a respectable word enough, but was needlessly fetched

from the Greek, to the suppression of a good old word, nearer home. Ital. *boticario*. v. d.

POT-LADLES, *s. pl.* tad-poles ; from their shape.

POTTER, *v.* to poke, pry, rummage. It seems, indeed, to imply repetition or continuance of *poking*.

Belg. *poteren*, *agitare*. w. c.

POWER, *s.* a great number. It has the same sense, and seems to be in fact a translation of *posse*, q. v. Ex. "There was a vast *power* of gentle-folks at the music." In O. Fr. the word *force* was used in the same sense.

PRESENCE, *s.* aspect ; person ; outward appearance.

Ex. "He is a man of a fine *presence*." The word occurs in this sense in Shakspeare's King John, and the commentators know not what to make of it. Queen Eleanor calls the handsome and gallant bastard Faulconbridge, "Lord of thy *presence*, and no land beside."

PREST, *adj.* ready. In its common application, it seems to be understood as an abbreviation of the adverb *presently*. Ex. "I will be with you *prest*."

But it is a good o. e. adjective, as well as O. Fr. *prest*.

PRIM, *s.* very small smelts. The fry of smelts. So called at Lynn, where the smelts are remarkably fine.

PRIME, *v.* to trim up the stems of trees ; to give them the first dressing or training, in order to make them grow shapely.

PRINT, *s.* Phr. "In *print*," means exactly, to a nicety. Shakspeare uses it in Two Gentlemen of Verona. The phrase must have arisen soon after the invention of printing, which must of course have been highly admired for its neatness and precision in comparison of manuscript.

PRISE, *v.* to force up, or open, as the lid of a chest, a door, &c. *Fr. presser.*

PRISE, *s.* a lever used for the purpose of forcing.

This instrument is sometimes called a *pry*; no doubt from a sense of incorrectness, in calling a single tool by a plural name. So the *s* is left out to make the word singular.

PRITCH, *s.* a strong and sharp-pointed instrument of iron for various purposes.

1. A *fold-pritch* is that with which holes are made in the ground to receive fold-stakes, or what are called the toes of hurdles.

2. An *eel-pritch* is a spear for taking eels.

A. s. pricean, pungere.

PROCTOR, *v.* to hector, swagger, or bully. The correspondent substantive appears to be out of use.

If it were not, the greatest care must be taken not to confound those bullies and swaggerers with the officers in our Universities, who bear the same title, nor with the advocates exercent in our Ecclesiastical Courts. The *Proctors* connected with this verb were very different personages indeed. They were sturdy beggars, who undertook to travel about the country and gather alms for the sick and lame in hospitals, and for other charitable purposes. Time was, when they were thought useful; for they were expressly allowed by a statute of 1 Edward VI. But within fifty years they became so great a public nuisance, by their impudence, importunity, threatening and abusive language, that it became necessary to put them down by the statute of 39 Eliz. c. 4, which makes them rogues and vagabonds. This certainly proves our word to be *o. e.*

PROG, *v.* to pry or poke into holes and corners. In T. J. it is interpreted to "beg," and to "steal." We use it in neither sense; unless, indeed, it be that those who go *progging* about in our sense, are likely enough to steal whatever they can lay their hands upon. In PR. PA. it is *prok*. May not this be a cant abbreviation of the word *proctor*, in the sense in which it was used at that time? Thus, indeed, it might mediate and remotely come from either of the words proposed by Mr. Todd. BR. has *prog*, to prick.

PROG, *s.* a curved spike or prong, to drag what is seized by it. The word *prong* is given in T. J. only in the sense of a *fork*, yet the authority quoted supposes it to have teeth. A *prog* would be of no use if it could not hold and draw as well as pierce. Both these words are otherwise pronounced *progue*. There is a second sense of the substantive *prog*, which means food. Ex. "If I have but small wages, I get my *prog*."

PROPER, *adj.* becoming; deserved; as it ought to be, or might be expected.

PROPERLY, *adv.* becomingly; deservedly. In the sense of these words, then, there is nothing peculiar to us; but in the mode of applying them, there is often something very odd and whimsical. And they are very favourite words. Ex. "The mischievous boy got a *proper* licking." "Tom is a *proper* rogue." "John was *properly* tired." "I hear you have been ill."—"Yes, indeed, I have had a *proper* illness." What might very *properly* be called so.

PROTER, *s.* a poker.

PROVE, *v.* "How did that beast prove?" is a question often asked of the butcher by the farmer. *i. e.* "Did he die fat internally? did he tallow well?"

PUBLIC, *s.* a public house; an inn; or alehouse. *L. sc.*

PUDDING, *s.* a stuffed cushion put upon a child's forehead, when it is first trusted to walk alone.

PUDDING-PIE, *s.* a piece of meat plunged in batter and baked in a deep dish, thus partaking of the nature of both pudding and pie. An ancient name of a very savoury but homely dish; and a far more seemly one, than that by which the same dish is often called, and more generally known—a "toad in a hole," which is even positively nasty. Yet it is not more so than the French "*pigeons en crapaud*," which is to be found in the most exquisite collections of culinary treasures.

PUDDING-POKE, *s.* *V.* OVEN and POKE.

PULK, *s.*

1. A hole full of mud, or a small muddy pond. Otherwise a *pulk-hole*. *BR. JEN.* A shallow place containing water.
2. A thick, chubby, fat figure, of low stature.

PULKY, *adj.* thick, fat, chubby, and short. In the Russian language it seems a *pulk* signifies a compact company or collection; chiefly, if not entirely, in a military sense. A few years ago, we very often read in the newspapers, of *pulks* of Cosacks. Perhaps there is some figurative connexion of meaning of the several senses of *pulk*.

PULLING-TIME, *s.* the evening of the fair-day when the wenches are pulled about.

PULL-TOW, PULL-TOW-KNOTS, *s.* the coarse and knotty parts of the tow, which are carefully pulled out and thrown aside, before it is fit to be spun into yarn.

PUMMACE, *s.* the mass of apples mashed under a stone roller before they are placed between layers of straw or the cyder-press. In *r. j.* it is erroneously explained the dregs of cyder pressings, It is there spelled *pomace*, and accented on the last syllable ; as it is no doubt pronounced in France, if it exists there in this precise form, which there are no means at hand of ascertaining, Many years ago, an old native of Jersey, who had then the care of an extensive orchard in Suffolk, and spoke the Patois French of his native island, always called it *pommaise*. It is here spelled as it is commonly pronounced. The word is figuratively used for any soft pulpy substance, like rotten or mashed fruit. Ex. "I will beat you to a *pummace*."

PUNDER, *v.* to be exactly on an equipoise.

PUNDLE-TREE, *s.* the wooden cross-bar to which the horses are fastened to draw ploughs or harrows. *Tree* means *wood*, as has been before explained ; and the compound word literally means, the *balanced-wood*, which is descriptive of it. The *pundle-tree* is thicker than the *whipple-tree*.

PUNGLED, *part.* shrivelled and become tough ; as winter fruit over-kept, but not turned rotten ; also grain shrivelled with heat or disease.

PUPPY, *s.* a puppet. Caught by the ear from a French word, and something like it in sound. Fr. *poupée*.

PUR, *s.* a poker. Mr. Lemon would assuredly derive

it from Greek on account of its immediate connexion with *πυρ*, fire. It is the very word itself. In L. sc. it is called a *purring-iron*. We say *pur* the fire. Teut. *poyeren*, fodere. BR. *por*.

PURDY, *adj.* surly ; ill-humoured ; self-important.

PURLE, *v.* A term in knitting. It means an inversion of the stitches, which gives to the work, in those parts in which it is used, a different appearance from the general surface. The seams of stockings, the alternate ribs, and what are called the clocks, are *purled*.

PURLE, *s.* a narrow list, border, fringe, or edging.

The top of a knitted stocking may, perhaps, serve as an instance, and thus point out the connexion with the preceding word. It is a contraction of *purfle*. O. E. Fr. *pourfiler*.

PURELY, *adv.* much improved in health. Ex. "I am *purely* to-day."

PURVIDE, *v.* to provide. Is it called a corruption ?

We deny it. It comes from Latin, through French, like many other words, and may have somewhat of the air of a hybrid. But why is it not as good as *purvey* or *purview* ?

PURWIGGY, *s.* a tadpole. It is from *periwig*, and *polliwig* is a licentious corruption of it. Certainly one of the little animals bears as much resemblance to that antiquated article of finery, the wig with a long queue, as to a pot-ladle, by which name we also call it.

PUSSLE, **PUZZLE**, *s.* a very dirty drab ; a filthy slut. It should seem from SH. 1 Henry VI. to be a corruption of La *Pucelle*, the maid of Or-

leans; and to have been invented and continued in contempt and hatred of that heroine. Minshull would derive it from, Ital. *puzza*.

P'S AND Q'S. Phr. "Mind your *p's and q's*," q. d. "be nicely observant of your language and behaviour." Mr. Brockett supposes it to be "from a French injunction to make proper obeisances." "*Soyez attentifs a vos pies et vos cues*." But where does he find that either of those words mean an obeisance? Or where does he find them at all? It is indeed by no means unlikely that the phrase is, originally, French, and that the proper form of it is "*Gardez bien vos *pieds* et vos *culs**." "Take care you do not make a *trip*, or get a *kick*."
V. D.

Q.

QUACKLE, v. to interrupt breathing. Formed to express the inarticulate sound then uttered. The substantive *quack*, is used in this sense by CH. T. J. PE.

QUADDLE, QUODDLE, v. to coddle; to boil gently. Merely a change of C to Qu.

QUADDLING, QUODDLING, s. codling; a well-known soft summer apple. As old as B. JON. Dol, in the Alchemist, applies it figuratively to the young simpleton, or green-horn, Dapper.

QUADDY, *adj.* very broad, short, and thick in person.

QUAGGY, *adj.* soft and tremulous. Primarily and

particularly applied to soil, but not confined to it; sometimes extended to great obesity and flabbiness of flesh.

QUAIL, *v.* to curdle. This appears to be the primary and proper sense, not mentioned in the *Dictt.* but in very common use here. Milk, by coagulation, loses its smoothness, richness, flavour, and nutritious quality; and becomes in part tough and inert; and in part weak, watery, and vapid. The good housewife, in boiling her custard, takes great pains to adjust the proper degree of heat, lest it *quail*, and become a different thing from what she intends. Here is sufficient clue to the secondary and derived senses given in *T. J.* in every one of which, and in every cited authority, is involved, the idea of weakness or failure. As in *SH.* "Let not search and investigation *quail*." The Teut. *quelen*, and the A. S. *cwellan*, offered as etyma, seem but varieties of the same word in two different Gothic languages, and more properly to belong to the verb *quell*. Our *quail* is exactly Ital. *quagliare*.

QUAIRE, *s.* a quire of paper. O. Fr. *quayer*.

QUARREL, *s.* any four-cornered pane of glass; more particularly, the ancient lozenge-shaped pane. The connexion between this and the common sense of *quarrel*, seems somewhat illustrated by Beatrice's question about Benedick in *SH.* Much ado about Nothing. "Is there never a young *squarer* now," &c. She alludes to his *quarrelsome* disposition.

JEN. W.C. quarry.

QUAVERY-MAVERY, *adj.* or *adv.* undecided; and hesitating how to decide; not on an even ba-

lance ; meaning to determine, but fearful of taking a wrong step. A quagmire was in o. e. called a *quavemire*. A man in the state of mind expressed by our word, may very well be compared with one walking on a shaking bog, and mistrusting his next step.

QUEACH, *s.* a plat of ground adjoining arable land, and left unploughed, because full of bushes or roots of trees. By this circumstance connected with *quicks*, *q. v.* T. J. N. G.

QUEST, *v.* to yelp as a dog when he scents his game. In T. J. under this word, the idea of *search* only is given, which seems indeed to be the proper one. We certainly mean the cry when the game is *found*, but not *caught*. Ours then, seems a secondary sense, yet even in that, the word surely cannot be merely provincial. L. sc. O. Fr. *quester*.

QUESTING, *part.* barking. A "*questing* spaniel," is one who opens upon the scent of his game, in contra-distinction to one who runs mute.

QUEZZEN, *v.*

1. To suffocate with noxious vapour.
2. To smother away without flame. If the fuel be damp, the fire *quezzens* out.

QUICK, *s.* the growing plants which constitute a quickset hedge, or are raised in nursery beds for that purpose. In o. e. the adjective *quick* is equivalent to *alive* ; and it is still used in that sense in the North. Indeed, the very word before us, exhibits a proof that it survives also among us. Though we have advanced it to the rank of substantive, and do not advert to its proper adjective

nature and meaning ; having thrown away the substantives *hedge, fence, or plant*, with which it ought to be joined.

QUICKS, *s. pl.* roots of grass, harrowed out of a foul soil long neglected, principally *Triticum repens*, Lin. They are commonly collected in heaps, and burned on the land. The process is called, "burning of quicks." *Couch, quick, twitch*, are other common names of these rapidly rooting and stubbornly vivacious grasses. A. s. *cwic*, *vivus*, or *cwice*, *gramen caninum*.

QUONS, *s.* a hand-mill for grinding mustard-seed. It may be suspected of being no other than a coarse corruption of *quern*. L. sc.

QUONT, *s.* a pole to push a boat onwards. Lat. *contus*.

R.

RAB, *s.* a wooden beater, to bray and incorporate the ingredients of mortar.

RACK, *s.* a rut. We say a cart-rack. L. sc. *Rat*. Both come with equal ease and certainty from Sui.-G. *ratta*, *callis*.

RAFF, *s.* refuse ; rubbish ; worthless fragments. In T. J. it is assigned to Norfolk, in the sense of a "low fellow." In that sense it is surely general enough, but happens to be scarcely, if at all, in use by us ; though very common in the sense given above. *Riff* commonly prefixed to it, is French, made by Cotgr. equivalent to *rien*. And there is an old French phrase, "*ni rif ni raf*," which we

might perhaps translate, "neither rag nor jag,"
 q. v. It is certainly of French derivation to us;
 though it may have come more remotely from Dan.
ripsraps, fæx hominum.

RAFFLING, *adj.* idle; unsteady; unthinking. Ex.
 "A *raffling* fellow," one who seems to act at ran-
 dom, hit or miss. BR.

RAFFLING-POLE, *s.* the pole with which the em-
 bers are spread to all parts of the oven. C. HAW.

RAFT, *s.* a fusty and damp smell, such as often pro-
 ceeds from what has been closely shut up. It may
 therefore be from A. s. *reft*, velamen.

RAFTINESS, *s.* fustiness; staleness.

RAFTY, *adj.*

1. Fusty; stale. A cask emptied of its contents, is apt to become *rafty*, if there be not sufficient access of air; and provisions, if the larder be not well ventilated.
2. The air is said to be *rafty* when it is misty, with an unpleasant smell. If it be moreover cold it is said to be "raw and rafty." It may be the same word as *drafty* in Chaucer, from *draff*, which Ray quotes as a North Country word, but which is, and probably has been, a very general name for brewers grains or hog-wash. A. s. *drabbe*, fæces, or *droff*, cænosus.

RAFT, RAFTINESS, *s.*

1. A stinking mist.
2. Fustiness in a cask.

RAG, *v.* to rail; revile in outrageous and opprobrious terms. BR. Isl. *rægia*, incusare.

RAGS AND JAGS, *s. pl.* minute fragments; rem-

nants, shreds, or shivers. In this, as in many instances, the reduplication of sound adds nothing to the sense. And could it have been thought pleasing to the ear?

RAKE, *v.* to gad or ramble in mere idleness, without any immoral implication. It is often applied to truant children.

RALLY, *s.*

1. A projecting ledge in a wall built thicker below than above, serving the purpose of a shelf.

2. A coarse sieve, to sift pease or horse beans.

RALLY, *v.* to sift.

RAMP, *v.*

1. To prance ; to romp. *L. sc. rampage.*

2. To grow rapidly and luxuriantly. It is applied to the rank growth of plants supporting themselves. In the case of those which have tendrils or claspers, by which they lay hold on other supports, it is an admitted word. It can have no proper connexion with the *Fr. ramper*, but is from *A. s. rempend*, præceps.

RAMSHACKLED, *adj.* confused and obstructed in motion, action, or intention, like a ram when his head is fastened to his fore leg. In *L. sc.* it is *ham-shackled*. The same mode of tethering horses and cows is mentioned, in which it is not easy to see what *ham* has to do ; unless the meaning be, to keep them at *hame*. The figurative sense is not mentioned by *JAM.* which is very expressive, as such a mode of shackling rams is common enough. It is odd, that this word, in the West, means " loose and disjointed." *JEN.*

RANCH, *v.* to scratch deeply and severely, as with a nail or some more sharply pointed instrument. It has certainly no connexion either in meaning or in formation with *wrench*; and no more with Ital. *ran-care*, as conjectured in T. J. It seems to belong to *scranch*, *q. v.* and both may be left safely under Dr. Wallis's general observations on the initial letters of A. S. words, without any very eager curiosity to find an exact etymon. It is O. E. and in the passage from Dryden, we cannot doubt its meaning though Dr. Johnson did. "*Ranched* his hips with one continued wound" is perfectly intelligible.

RANCH, *s.* a deep and severe scratch, a flesh wound.

RAND, *s.*

1. A joint of beef; or rather a piece than a joint. It does not seem to admit of any precise definition, but to signify any fleshy piece from the edges of the larger divisions of the hind quarter, the rump, loin, or leg.
2. A strip of leather, in the heel of a shoe, turned over the edge, and firmly stitched down to strengthen it. In both senses from Teut. *rand*, *margo*.

RANDAN, *s.* the produce of a second sifting of meal.

V. CRIBLE.

RANNY, *s.* the shrew-mouse, *Sorex araneus*, Lin. The short-tailed field mouse, *Mus agrestis*, Lin. abounding in moist meadows, is not unfrequently called by the same name, but sometimes distinguished as the *water-ranny*.

RANTER, *s.* a tin or copper can, in which beer is brought from the cellar, and poured out into drink-

ing vessels. Some etymologists might contend for its perfect coincidence in form and sense with the Greek *παρρη*. It will be safer, however, to consider it in conjunction with the following verb.

RANTER, *v.*

1. To pour liquor from a large into smaller vessels.
2. To sew up a rent in a garment, or to apply a patch over it, so neatly as that the new stitches are not discernible.

No two things can be apparently more unlike than the senses of this verb. Yet both are exactly coincident with that of the French verb below, which, being literally interpreted, means, to draw into again. *Fr. rentraire*.

RAP AND REND, *v.* to seize and apply to his own use whatever a man can lay hands on. It is not a phrase solely or peculiarly our own. It was proposed some few years ago by a writer in the *Monthly Review* (to which the reference is lost) to read, "Rip and rend," as if it were a metaphor from the barking of timber. Mr. Pegge proposes "Rap and ring;" with a qu, "wrap and wring." Rap, however, is better, and *rend* needs no change or explanation. *Sui.-G. rappa*, *vi ad se protrahere*.

RAPE AND SCRAPE, *v.* Much the same in import as the foregoing phrase, but implying less violence. *Rape* is merely a variation of *rap*.

RASE, *v.* to cut or scratch superficially; to wound or abrade skin-deep. We pronounce it as if it were *race*, but certainly it ought to be spelled with *s*. In *T. J.* it is defined, to "strike on the surface." It seems necessarily implied that something is taken

off. It is so in the authorities there cited. Fr. *ruser*.

RASP, RESP, v. to belch. JAM. has *resp*, "to make a noise like the sound of a file;" of course like that of a *rasp*. This similarity of sound may explain our word; or it may be from Isl. *rapa*, ructus.

RATHER OF THE RATHEREST, Phr. a very little too much or too little. It is chiefly applied to the insufficient dressing of meat; sometimes to one half-drunk.

RATH-RIPE, adj. coming early to maturity. A. S. *rath*, cito. PE.

RATTOCK, s. a great noise.

RATTOCK, v. to make a great noise. A metathesis of *racket*, and probably meant to give more force to it.

RAUM, v. to sprawl; to move with arms and legs on full stretch. W. C. Fr. *ramper*, or Teut. *raemen*, extendere.

RAWINGS, s. pl. after grass. V. EDDISH. Tusser spells it *rawings*, which may be better if the after grass be mowed for a second crop of hay, as it sometimes is.

RAZOR, s. a small pole, used to confine faggots.

REASTY, adj.

1. Restive. A corruption, no doubt.

2. Rancid; and probably so is this of *rusty*, from the appearance of things turned rancid, as of bacon, to which it is particularly applied. PR. PA. BR.

REAST, REASTINESS, s. restiveness or rancidity. Indeed the two senses seem to be sometimes

strangely confounded. Some talk of a horse "taking *reast* or *rust*," or "running *rusty*," meaning that he becomes *restive* not *rancid*. BR.

RED-WEED, *s.* any of the species of field poppy with scarlet flowers.

REED-ROLL, *s.* a thicket of reeds on the borders or shallow parts of a river.

REIN, *v.*

1. To droop the head, as ripe corn.

2. To bear the head in a stiff and constrained posture, through affectation, like that of a horse sharply bitted.

RELEET, *s.* the meeting of different roads in the same point, as a three-*releet*, a four-*releet*, &c. It is difficult to know what to make of the syllable *re*; unless it were used merely to give more ease and fluency to the compound word. For the last syllable a very probable derivation may be offered. The necessity of inquiry must have been very great before the use of guide-posts. Isl. *leita*, quærere.

REMEVE, *v.* to remove. O. E.

RENDER, *v.* to give a finishing coat of plaster to a wall.

RERE, *adj.* raw; insufficiently cooked, A. S. *hrere*, crudus. N. G. W. W. R.

RET, *v.* to soak; to macerate in water.

RETTING-PIT, *s.* a pond used for soaking hemp.

In the fens there are two different modes of *retting*; dew-*retting*, which is spreading the crop on the grass, and turning it now and then to receive the dew; and water-*retting*, which is laying it in a pond or ditch, covered with turf. Perhaps A. S. *rith*, rivus.

RHENOISTER, *s.* a rhinoceros. If a corruption, it is not of our making, or at most in a very slight and venial degree. It appears that the beast is called by the Dutch settlers at the Cape, *Rhenoster*. It cannot be a word of very long standing. Perhaps the show man, who first exhibited one among us, happened to be a Dutchman, or had purchased his beast from one, with his name and history.

RICKY, *adj.* masterly. A. S. *rice*, potens.

RID, *v.*

1. To remove litter or incumbrance ; to put in order.

Ex. " *Rid* up the room, or *rid* yourself, before the company come." BR.

2. To dispatch. Ex. " To *rid* work," " to *rid* ground," &c. SH. Henry VI. " willingness *rids* way." Certainly connected with *ready*, and from A. S. *hraed*, paratus, or *hraeddan*, liberare.

RIDDLE, *s.* a coarse sieve ; as a *corn-riddle*, a *cinder-riddle*, &c. BR. A. S. *hriddel*, cribrum.

RIDE, *v.* Phr. " to *ride* grub," to be out of humour, sulkily silent and pouting.

RIE, *s.* the raised border on the top of a stocking.

RIG, *s.*

1. A ridge in ploughed land, as much as lies between one furrow and another.

2. A rib in a stocking. It is possible that in both instances it may be the traditional pronunciation of A. S. *hrigge*, dorsum.

RIGGED, *part.* ribbed. " A *rigged* stocking." BR. has " *rigged* and *furred* stocking," from *rig* and *furrow*.

RIGHT, *v.* to set to rights ; to put into order ; fre-

quently used with "up." Ex. "*Right up* the room, company is coming."

RIGHT, *s.* obligation. Ex. "I have no *right* to pay so much," *q. d.* I am not obliged to pay it. One term serving to express two correlatives.

RIGHT, *adv.* Used as a prefix to some words to which it is generally subjoined; of which examples follow.

RIGHT-DOWN, *adj.* downright. It is used by Bishop Hall; but he probably did not find it, like his contemporary Sir Thomas Browne, in other instances, for the first time, when he came to Norwich.

RIGHT-ON, *adj.* and *adv.*

1. Positively. Ex. "I am *right on* determined."

"He is a plain *right on* sort of man."

2. Straight forward. Ex. "Go *right on*, and you cannot miss the way."

RIGHT-OUT, *adv.* directly; uninterruptedly; completely.

RIGHT-SIDE, *v.* to state and balance an account.

The phrase is very familiar in the mouths of those who can neither keep nor even read a written account; but by mere exercise of memory can *right-side* it with the utmost precision, though it consist of a multitude of minute particulars.

RIGHT-UP, *adv.* upright. Ex. "Stand *right up*, boy!" It is figuratively said of one who lives on his own means, without trade or profession, that he "lives *right up*."

RIGHT-UP-EARED, *adj.* prick-eared; pert; saucy.

RILE, v.

1. To stir up liquor and make it turbid, by moving the sediment. **BR.**
2. It is figuratively applied both to the temper and to the complexion. A man is *riled* when he is provoked to anger. A *riled* complexion is one coarsely ruddy. This word appears to be in use in America, on the authority of some late traveller, whose name is unfortunately lost. In his book it is spelled *roile*, perhaps rightly. It may have been transported to the western world many years ago, with some East Anglian thief.

RIM-OF-THE-BODY, s. the membrane lining the abdomen, and covering the bowels. **O. E.** In **SH.** Henry V. ancient Pistol threatens poor Mons. le Fer to "fetch his *rim* out at his throat." Some of the commentators, "*vocis nescientes probitatem*," as Sir H. Spelman says, talk nonsense on the subject.

RIMPLE, s. a wrinkle. **A. S.** *hrimpel*, *ruga*. **CH.**

RINGE, s.

1. The border or trimming of a cap, kerchief, or other article of female dress.
2. A row of plants, or any thing else.

A. S. *hringe*, *ora*.

RINGLE, s. a little ring.

RINGLE, v. to "use or apply it; as to the snouts of swine. **T.**

RIP, v.

1. To swear profanely, and in anger. It is intended, perhaps, to intimate that the outrageous blasphemer, to whom it is applied, would, if he could,

rip and tear the object of his wrath. Or peradventure it may be only a cant abbreviation of *reprobate*.

2. To be very violent and outrageous.

RIP, s.

1. An outrageous profane swearer.

2. Any person or thing completely worn out and worthless. **BR. JEN.**

RISING, s. yeast; or whatever may be used as a substitute for it, to make the dough *rise* in fermentation.

RISPS, s. pl.

1. The stems of climbing plants generally.

2. The fruit-bearing stems of raspberries; sometimes, perhaps, applied to other plants somewhat like them. **r.** calls them *resps*, and gives the same name to the fruit. By the roughness of the stem, they are connected with *rasp*. More generally applied, the word may be from **A. s. hris**, frondes.

RIST, s.

1. A rising or elevation of the ground.

2. An advance of prices.

ROAD, v. to force or jostle one off the road by riding or driving against him.

ROBLET, s. a large chicken, or young cock.

ROCK, ROCK-STAFF, s. a distaff; from which, as we are told in **T. J.** the wool was spun "by twirling a ball below." It is spun, to this day, by being drawn out and formed into yarn by the finger and thumb, and pressed by the hand on the trip-skin, against which the spindle twirls, by degrees collecting on itself the ball, which is not therefore ori-

ginally the moving force, as seems to be supposed, but the result of the operation. "An old woman's *rockstaff*," is a contemptuous expression for a silly superstitious fancy.

ROCKET, *s.* a row of holes made by dibbles, the whole length of the **STETCH**, *q. v.*

ROGER'S-BLAST, *s.* a sudden and local motion of the air, no otherwise perceptible but by its whirling up the dust on a dry road in perfectly calm weather, somewhat in the manner of a water-spout. It is reckoned a sign of approaching rain.

ROKE, *s.* a fog. **PR. PA.** **BR.** has *rook*, whence *rooky*. **SH.**

ROKY, *adj.* foggy. It is the same word with *rooky*, in **SH.** *Macbeth*, "the *rooky* wood." It is therefore rightly explained, "damp, misty, steaming with exhalation." Any East Anglian plough-boy would have instantly removed the learned commentator's doubt whether it had any thing to do with *rooks*. It may very likely, as Ray supposes, be connected with *reek*.

ROLLIPOKE, *s.* hempen cloth of very coarse texture. Perhaps so named, because only fit to be used as bags or wrappers for *rolls* or bales of finer goods.

ROMMOCK, *v.* to romp or gambol boisterously. Apparently an intens. of *romp* or *roam*.

ROSIL, *s.* rosin. **O. E.** **BR.**

ROSILLY, *adj.* like rosin. It is applied to a soil both sandy and clayey. **R. S. E. C.**

ROT, *s.* a gentle, but not very delicate, form of imprecation; not understood to amount to a curse, how-

ever severe its literal import is. It is sometimes softened into a dimin. *rottle*. Sometimes considerably inflamed by the addition of another word which does not seem to have any proper connexion with it. Ex. "*Rot 'em and fire 'em,*" or "*sink 'em,*"

ROVE, *s.* a scab.

ROVY, *adj.* scabby. A. S. *hreoƿ*, scabies.

ROW, *s.* a hedge. Probably an abbreviation of *hedgerow*.

ROWY, *adj.* of uneven texture, having some threads stouter than others.

RUBBAGE, *s.* rubbish. Whether the form here given, or *rubbige*, be the better, it is neither worth contesting, nor possible to ascertain. Both are O. E. and used even by very eminent bishops, Taylor and Hall. Mr. Todd has taken the pains to vindicate both from the charge of corruption, facetiously, but unfortunately made by Mr. Pegge. If there be any corruption at all, it is *rubbish* itself.

RUCK, *s.* a wrinkle; crease; plait or fold in cloth. Teut. *hruch*, *ruga*. W. W. R.

RUCK, *v.*

1. To have a folded, creased, ridgy, or uneven surface. Ex. "The sleeve of my coat *rucks*."
2. To squat or shrink down, as if folding oneself. Isl. *hruka*, coarctatio. W. C.

RUCKY, *adj.* full of rucks.

RUFFATORY, *s.* a rude boisterous boy, fond of horse-play, knocking and shoving his play-fellows about at all risks. One comes in with a bloody nose, a bump upon his head, or with his clothes

half torn off, or dawbed by being rolled in the mire. "Oh! cries my dame, this is that *ruffatory* John's doing!" It may seem unaccountable, that an Italian word, in such an application, should have been transferred into our language, with no other change than the necessary one, of the final vowel. But so it is, however it came. Veneroni, whose interpretations are all very short, gives to the substantive *ruffatore*, only the French synonym *grippeur*; and to the verb *ruffare* he gives *grepper*, *happer*, and *faire-rafle*. Now this grasping, and snatching, and sweeping before him whatever comes in his way, is so descriptive of the rude boy, called a *ruffatory* by our old women, who do not understand a word of Italian, that the transmigration, however strange, seems sufficiently ascertained.

RUM, *adj.* queer; odd; unaccountable. It is a Saxon word, and in that language occurs for the most part in compound words as a prefix. *Latus* is the sense given of it by Somner, but it seems to mean generally and indefinitely, *great*. In *JAM. Dictionary* it occurs, and is interpreted *excellent*. With us, however, it is always used ironically or ludicrously. It is very commonly joined with the substantive duke. A "*rum* duke!" is a strange unaccountable fellow. No doubt such a connexion constitutes an extremely queer phrase. If it be any thing more than mere slang or cant, and be of considerable antiquity, which it very well may be, the two words must have been originally brought together by some more intelligible congruity. **BR.**

RUMBUSTICAL, *adj.* boisterous in manners; bustling, shoving, and incommoding others. The ambiguous prefix *rum*, with the old word *boistous*, would make something like the word, if it were not for the difference of termination. That might, indeed, be an arbitrary addition. And the whole word may be arbitrary, and it does not seem worth any trouble to help it to a meaning. BR.

RUMGUMPTIOUS, *adj.* sturdy in opinion; rough and surly in asserting it. Formed, in all probability, of the same word *rum*, and the substantive *gumption*, q. v. JAM. has *rumgumption*, the substantive belonging to it, which he interprets "common sense." BR. and CR. have our adjective in the sense of pompous.

RUN, *v.* Phr. "To *run* a rig." This low phrase is in T. J. and is defined, "to play a trick," and "to banter." The use of it is by no means peculiar to us. That it was originally ours, if not ascertainable, is at least not improbable, from the strong figurative propriety it has in our dialect. It means not a single trick or banter, but a perseverance in bantering; as the motion of a plough drives *rig* and furrow onwards. It was therefore properly admitted in C. HAW, and appears with the same propriety here.

RUNNABLY, *adv.* currently; smoothly; without hesitation. Ex. "The boy reads pretty *runnably*." CH. *renably*. Often *renably* in Suffolk.

RUNTY, *adj.* crusty; surly; ill-humoured. "To *run runty*," is to take affront and resent it. Perhaps in the fabrication of this word there was some refer-

ence to the wild, rough, stunted cattle, called *runts*.

RUTTLE, *v.* to make a harsh and rough noise in breathing; as when the action of the lungs is impeded, or the passage through the trachea obstructed. *BR.* *L. SC.* *ruckle*.

S.

SAD-BAD, SADLY-BAD, SADLY-BADLY, *adj.* or *adv.* very ill. The second form seems to be the most grammatically correct, but some may prefer the first, as being somewhat à la grèque, an adjective being used as an adverb; "*sadly* on't," and "*sadly* poorly," are equivalent phrases.

SAG, *v.* to fail, or give way, from weakness in itself, or over-loaded; as the bars of a gate, beams, rafters, or the like. It is used figuratively in *SH.* Macbeth, "shall never *sag* with fear." We also use it figuratively. Of a man who droops in the decline of life, we say, he "begins to *sag*." With us it is perfectly distinct from *swag*. *Isl.* *syg*, deorsum feror. *T. J.* *PE.*

SAG-LEDGE, *s.* a cross-bar or brace to a gate, to prevent the *ledges* from *sagging*.

SALE, *s.* the iron or wooden part of the collar of a cart-horse. As immediately connected with harness it may be *A. s.* *sale*, habena.

SALLY, *v.* to pitch forward.

SALT-CAT, *s.* *V. CAT.* *PE.*

SAMMEN-BRICKS, *s. pl.* bricks insufficiently burn-

ed; soft and friable. They are commonly understood to be *salmon* bricks, and to be so called, because, from lying near the outsides of the kiln, they get more smoke than heat, and assume a reddish hue, supposed to be something like that of the flesh of the salmon; to be properly salmon-coloured bricks. Some bold etymologists have conjectured that the word ought to be *semmel*, an abridgement for convenience of carriage and facility of use, of *semi-ustulate*, half-burned. It happens, however, that we can get sufficiently near to the same sense, without taking so much trouble. The substance of the word is Saxon, and the mere termination, whether it be *el* or *en*, is of no importance. A. S. *sam*, semi.

SAMMODITHEE, Phr. This uncouth cluster of little words (for such it is) is recorded by Sir Thomas Browne as current in his time. It is now totally extinct. It stands thus in the eighth tract, "On Languages." Dr. Hickes has taken the liberty of changing it to *sammoditha*, and interprets it, "Say me how dost thou," in pure Saxon, "*sæg me hu dest thu*." "Say me," for "tell me," is in use to this day in some counties. It is in the dialect of Sedgmoor. Ray adduces, as a sort of parallel to this jumble of words, one which he says was common in his time; *muchgooditte*, "much good do it thee." In both the forms of our antiquated word, grammar seems to be violated. One of them involves *thou do*, the other *thee do*. Still there is somewhat to choose between them. In the first the nominative case and the verb are at vari-

ance ; in the second there is no nominative case at all. So common are grammatical anomalies in our intractable language at all periods of it, even in its present state, that this particular obsolete instance would not deserve notice, did it not seem to impart an air of antiquity to what is perhaps the grossest of our modern colloquial barbarisms. When the Society of Friends thought proper to purify, or simplify, their mode of familiar address, it is not at all wonderful, that the vulgar and illiterate among them, should suppose they had nothing more to do, than merely to substitute *thee* for *you*, and say, "How do thee do?" "I hope thee are well?" "I am glad to see thee." But it is extremely offensive and quite intolerable to hear persons of good education (and there are many among them now) committing these barbarous solecisms in their common talk ; though in writing a familiar letter, they express themselves with perfect grammatical correctness.

SAND-GALLS, *s. pl.* *V. GALLS.*

SANNOCK, *v.* a freq. or intens. of *sanny*.

SANNY, *v.* to utter a whining and wailing cry without apparent cause.

SAP, *s.* another of Sir Thomas Browne's words ; of which neither Hickes nor Ray gives any explanation. It can surely be nothing more than the word *sop*, with the same pronunciation then, which it very commonly has now.

SAPY, *adj.* pallid ; sickly. It would exactly suit a derivation from the Greek word *σηπω*, in the Doric dialect ; and it is impossible to be sure that it is

not so descended. We may be better content, however, to deduce it from A. S. *sape*, lomentum.

SAUCE, s.

1. Sauciness. Ex. "Jack don't let me have none of your *sauce*." BR.
2. Any sort of vegetable eaten with flesh-meat. The ancient simplicity of rustic cookery, unacquainted with high and stimulating condiments, still seeks wholesome substitutes for them in the garden.

SAUCE, v. to be saucy. Ex. "The impudent boy *sauced* at his master."

SAY, s.

1. A taste or trial, sufficient to give a hankering for more. Ex. "Now the sheep have got a *say* of this grass, they cannot keep out of it." O. Fr. *sayer*.
2. A sample. C. HAW. "Some *say* of breeding." SH. King Lear.
3. A declared opinion; a dictum. Ex. "I have said my *say*, and there is an end on't." A. S. *saga*, dictum.

SAY-NAY, v.

1. To refuse.
2. To forbid.

SCALD, v. to scorch; to affect with dry heat. SH. 3 Hen. VI. "Summer's *scalding* heat." Ital. *scaldare*.

SCALD, s.

1. A multitude; a collection of something paltry and insignificant. Ex. "I found the whole *scald* on 'em;" perhaps of boys robbing an orchard, or hen-roost, or some such company. The allusion may be to *scalded* green fruit. A *boiling* is used in the same sense in the North. BR. Neither of

these is a meaner or a more extravagant metaphor than *fry* for a company of young children, which is very general.

2. A patch in a field of barley, scorched and withered by the sun, in a hot dry season, and on a light soil.

SCALLION, *s.* an onion in an advanced period of its growth, in which its flavour becomes coarse and rank, and its substance tough. The DICT. identify it with the *eschallot*, from a slight resemblance to, and possible connexion with, its name, *allium ascalonicum*. We mean by a *scallion*, an onion sprouting in the second year to bear seed ; or the new bulbs which are sometimes produced from the old one in that renewed growth.

SCANT, *adj.* insufficient ; not competent. O. E. *Scanty* is now the word. We retain the old one. We talk of a "*scant* pattern," meaning a scanty pittance. The allusion is obvious to the old proverb, of "cutting the garment according to the cloth." PE.

SCANTITY, *s.* scarcity ; insufficiency. Ex. "She has but a poor *scantity* to live on."

SCARE, *s.* a cur to drive away the pigs and poultry.

SCARE, *adj.* lean and scraggy, as applied to persons ; scanty and flimsy, to apparel.

SCHISMS, *s. pl.* frivolous excuses ; round about reasonings ; strained apologies ; nice distinctions ; whimsies ; fancies and fooleries in general. It may be occasionally applied to religion, as well as to other things, but without any reference at all to religious dissent. Time has been, not only before, but since the Reformation of our National Church,

when separation from it was considered an offence, and not an error; as the licentious opposition of perverse will to a settled order, with which it was the duty of all to comply. Happily, that time is past; and it is certainly not a little remarkable, that at this day, the word *schism* is totally diverted from its original and proper import, to express what were once, indeed, supposed to be its concomitants; and in that sense used in other, and in any applications, frequently and familiarly, by the vulgar in their common talk. Ex. "Come, come, let us have no more of your *schisms*." "Speak out plain, I do not understand such *schisms*." "That man have always one *schism* or another in his head." At any rate the word proves its own antiquity. Such an application, of such a word, can be no modern invention. It is not in the spirit of these times, but of those in which the Puritans were sneered at.

SCOCKER, *s.* a rift in an oak tree, particularly when blasted by lightening; but more frequently a *scocker* is occasioned by water soaking down into the body of a pollard oak from an unsound part in the head of the tree; and when a severe frost follows, the expansion of the water in freezing splits the wood mechanically. A. *s.* *scacan*, concutere.

SCALES, *s. pl.* scales. O. E.

SCOOT, *s.* an irregular angular projection, marring the form of a field, garden, &c. Sui.-G. *skoet*, angulus.

SCOOTER, Phr. "To run like *scooter*," i. e. very nimbly. The expression is probably borrowed

from the flight of the *scooter* duck, *Anas nigra*, Lin.

This bird appears particularly active in pursuit of its prey.

SCOOTY, *adj.* abounding in scoots. "A *scooty* piece of ground."

SCOTCH, *v.* to spare; to refrain. Figuratively; the primary sense of the word being to cut or mince.

So when we say "I did not *scotch* to tell him my mind," we mean "I did not at all mince the matter."

SCOVE, *v.* to run swiftly; to scour along.

SCRAB, *v.* to scratch or claw. Its dimin. *scrabble* is in the B. T. R. Teut. *scrabben*, unguibus radere.

SCRABBED-EGGS, *s. pl.* a lenten dish, composed of eggs boiled hard, chopped and mixed, with a seasoning of butter, salt, and pepper.

SCRADGE, *v.* to dress and trim a fen-bank, in order to prepare it the better to resist an apprehended overflow. All loose materials within reach are raked together; and such additions as are to be had are procured, and so applied, as to heighten and strengthen the upper part on the side next to the flood.

SCRANCH, SCRANGE, *s.* a deep scratch.

SCRANCH, SCRANGE, *v.* to inflict such a scratch.

SCRAP, *v.* to scratch in the earth; as a dog or other animal having that propensity.

SCRAPS, *s. pl.* the dry, husky, and skinny residuum of melted fat.

SCREET, *s.* half a quarter of a sheet of paper. In L. SC. it is *screed*; a better word, exactly A. S. *scrad*, *scheda*. JEW. *screed*.

SCRIGGLE, SCRUGGLE, v. to writhe, or struggle with more or less force.

SCRIMMAGE, SCRUMMAGE, s. a skirmish, more or less severe.

SCRIMMAGE, SCRUMMAGE, v. to skirmish, &c.

In L. sc. the verb is *scrim*; which certainly distinguishes it better from the substantive. It is derived by JAM. from Teut. *scrimen*, pugilare. There is also A. s. *scrimbre*, gladiator; which Verstegan contends is properly *scrumbre*. There can be no material difference between the two, and there may be both. So much the better for us; for if we take one from Somner, and the other from Verstegan, we can account for both our words.

SCRIMPTION, s. a very small portion; a miserable pittance. *Scrimp*, adj. scanty, is L. sc. and suits our substantive well enough. It is also in BR. Sui.-G. *skrumpa*, corrugari.

SCRINGE, v.

1. To shrink, or shrivel; as with sharp cold, or dry-heat.
2. To cringe; to shrink as it were from fear of chastisement.

A. s. *scringan*, arescere.

SCROGGY, adj. twisted; stunted. In L. sc. *scrog* is a stunted shrub; and in w. w. r. BR. Teut. *schrug*, obliquus.

SCROG-LEGS, s. pl. bandy legs; crooked shanks.

SCRUFF, s. the tendinous part of the neck behind, thinly covered with muscle and skin. Sui.-G. *skrof*, glacies rara. BR. *scuff*.

SCRUSE, *s.* truce; or perhaps excuse; probably a corruption of one of these words. A boy at play, wanting to tie his shoe, or to leave off for any other momentary occasion, calls out *scruse*, and does not lose his place in the game.

SCUPPIT, *s.* dimin. of *scoop*. A sort of hollow shovel to throw out water; also a common shovel.

SCURRY, *v.* to scour; to run briskly in pursuit. *Skir* is in SH. Macbeth. "*Skir* the country round." *Scur* also is O. E. *Hurry-scurry* is a common low expression of haste and confusion. Sui.-G. *skura*, circum cursitare. BR.

SEAL, *s.* time; season. *Hay-seal*, *wheat-seal*, *barley-seal*, are the respective seasons of mowing, or sowing those products of the earth. But it goes as low as hours. Of an idle and dissipated fellow, we say that he "keeps bad *seals*;" of poachers, that they are "out at all *seals* of the night;" of a sober, regular, and industrious man, that he attends to his business "at all *seals*," or that he "keeps good *seals* and meals." Sir Thomas Browne spells it *sele*; but we seem to come nearer to the Saxon. A. S. *sæl*, opportunitas. PE.

SEED-LEP, *s.* the basket carried by the seedsman. Sometimes it is applied with less propriety to the deep basket which holds chaff to feed the horses. The word is precisely Saxon. A. S. *sæd-leap*, seminatoris corbis. JEN.

SEG, *s.* any animal emasculated when grown to maturity; as a bull-*seg*. BR. W. C.

SENCION, *s.* the common groundsel, *Senecio vulgaris*, Lin. It has been supposed a corruption of the Fr.

"herbe *Saint Jean*," but it does not appear that this plant ever was so called in French. And it is certain that by all the old botanists a very different one, a species of *hypericum*, is honoured with the name of *Saint John*. It is far more likely to be a corruption of the Latin name *senecio*, by dropping a letter in the middle, and adding one at the end. And by a farther confusion of sound, so is *sinson*; which, in all our English Floræ, is given as a common name of the same species.

SERVE, *v.* to impregnate.

SESS-POOL, *s.* a hole in the earth, into which all superfluous water is drained off, and for the most part sinks into the soil and disappears; the sediment which it leaves, being occasionally removed. From the resemblance which this filtration may be fancied to bear to *searc*ing or fine sifting, it may have been taken from Fr. *sasser*. R. N. C. *saurpool*. BR.

SET, *s.* a game at whist. Our rubbers consist of two or three *sets*. It is O. E. SH. King John, "Give o'er the yielded *set*."

SET, *v.*

1. To astound; to overcome with surprise. Ex. "When she heard the news, she was quite *set*." q. d. motionless, *set* fast.
2. Phr. "To *set* by," to treat with attention and consideration. Ex. "He was very much *set* by." It is O. E. B. TR. "He that *setteth* not by himself."
3. Phr. "To *set* store by," to set value upon. This too is O. E. W. W. R. BR.

SETTLE, *s.* a bench with a high wooden back, placed

near the fire, in the kitchen of the farm-house, or in the tap-room of an inn. It does not mean a seat or bench in general. A. s. *seatole*, sedile.

SEVEN-YEAR, *s.* a period of seven years collectively. A septennium. Ex. "I have not see him these two *seven-years*."

SHACK, *v.*

1. To rove about ; as a stroller and mendicant.
2. To turn pigs or poultry into the stubble-fields, to feed on the scattered grain.

SHACK, *s.*

1. A shabby fellow, lurking and prowling about, and living by his shifts.
2. The shaken grain remaining on the ground when harvest and gleaning are over ; or, in woodland countries, the acorns, or mast under the trees.

SHACK-BAG, *s.* Properly, one who carries a bag, *shaking* it to induce others to put something in, and holding it ready to receive whatever he can pilfer. But it is commonly used in the first sense of *shack*, substantive. L. sc. *shake-rag*.

SHACK-TIME, *s.* the time when pigs are at *shack*. After all, *shack* is only another form of *shake*.

SHACKY, *adj.* shabby ; ragged ; and shiftless, or shirtless.

SHAIL, *v.* Phr. "To *shail* about." "To run *shail-ing*," is to move as if the bones were loose in their sockets, like a ripe nut in its *shale* or shell. A. s. *scyla*, solvere.

SHAKES, *s. pl.* Phr. "No great *shakes* ;" no mighty matter ; nothing considerable ; nothing worth contending for. It has been before observed that, in

general English words beginning with *sh* come from A. S. words beginning with *sc*; but it is easily conceivable that, in long process of time, a single letter, not originally existing in a word, may have intruded itself. Thus the word, now under consideration, may be the A. S. *saca*, *lis*, *causa*. Or, as a thing not worth making a stir (or *shake*) about, it may be a descendent of *scacan*, *quater*.

SHALM, SHARM, SHAWM, *v.* to scream shrilly and vociferously. It appears to be formed from some resemblance, real or imagined, to the sound of the wind instrument so often mentioned in our B. TR. and which is supposed to have been a sort of hautboy or cornet.

SHAMBLE, *v.* to drive away and disperse.

SHAMBLE, *v.* to walk awkwardly and unsteadily, as if the legs were weak.

SHAMBLING, *adj.* walking as above.

SHANNY, *adj.* shatter-brained. Ray has *shandy*, certainly the same word in somewhat different form. The *d* was easily dropped. The northern word has obtained sufficient notoriety from the adoption of it by Sterne, as the name of his harum-scarum hero. A. S. *scande*, *confusio*.

SHAUNTY, *adj.* shewy; flashy; affecting to be tasteful in apparel or ornament. Fr. *gentil*. W. W. R. BR.

SHEAR, *v.* to cut down with a sickle. O. E. A. S. *scyrian*, *resecare*.

SHEER, *adj.*

1. Brittle. It is given in T. J. as an adv. and as a low word, in the sense of "quick, at once." Low let it be. It is nearly connected with our sense.
2. Bright red; shining with inflammation.

SHELLED, *adj.* pie-bald.

SHERES, *s. pl.* A general name for all the counties in England, but Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex, which are commonly called by us "the three counties." A shire is called a *shere* by Drayton and other old authors. A sort of presumptive proof that it was the ancient pronunciation is afforded in the word sheriff, *q. d. shere-reeve*. Otherwise, why not *shiriff*, or rather *shireff*?

SHERE-MAN, *s.* any man who had not the good fortune to be born in one of the sister counties, or in Essex. He is a sort of foreigner to us; and to our ears, which are acutely sensible of any violation of the beauty of our phraseology, and the music of our pronunciation, his speech soon bewrays him. "Aye, I knew he must be a *shere-man* by his tongue."

SHET, *v.* to shut. By the convenient mutability of A. S. vowels, this word is about mid-way between the original A. S. and the modern form of it. The happy medium is, however, sometimes missed. A village carpenter was sent for to mend a door which was out of order, and would not shut close. On inspecting it, he said he saw what was the matter, and would very soon make it *shut*; giving to the word its genuine Saxon pronunciation, and certainly meaning no waggery. CH. uses *shet* and W. *schit*. Phr. "To get *shet*," or *shut* of any one is to get rid of him, to *shet* the door against him. A. S. *scyttan*, serare.

SHIFTEN, *v.*

1. To change linen.

2. To shift stitches from one pin to another in knitting.

SHIFTENING, *s.* a change of linen. A poor woman begs of the overseer to give her boy, who is going out to service, "only a *shiftening*, two of each sort, one on and one off."

SHIM, *s.* a narrow stripe of white on a horse's face. *A. s. scima*, splendor.

SHIMMER, *v.* to glimmer; to shine faintly. Belg. *schemen*. CH. P. G. BR.

SHIMPER, *v.* to simmer. R. S. E. C. SK. *simber*.

SHITTEN-SATURDAY, *s.* The most fastidious delicacy can have no right to claim an apology for printing the first of these words in its full form without a dash. There is not the least impurity in it. Those who list, may laugh or sneer. There is no room for either. It is a very serious expression. It means the Saturday in Passion Week, and should now be pronounced *shutten*, or *shut-in-Saturday*; the day on which the blessed Redeemer's body lay inclosed in the tomb. *A. s. scyttan*, serare.

SHIVE, *s.*

1. A small and thin slice. CH. and SH. W. C.

2. The small iron wedge, with which the bolt of a window-shutter is fastened. In Suffolk this is called "a *sheer*."

SHOAF, *s.* a sheaf. O. E. W. C.

SHOD, SHUD, *s.* a shed. Either may be the participle of the *A. s.* verb. It certainly means a *shaded* place.

SHOES AND STOCKINGS, *s. pl.* The variety of primrose and polyanthus which has one flower sheathed within another.

SHOLT, *s.* a cur.

SHOO, *v.* to scare birds. L. *sc.* *shue*. Teut. *scheachen*,
aves territare.

SHOOL, SHULVE, *v.* to saunter, with such extreme
laziness, as if the saunterer did not mean to walk,
but to shovel up the dust with his feet.

SHORING, *adv.* awry; aslant. From the oblique or
slanting position of a shore or buttress.

SHORT, *adj.* light; soft and friable; as cakes, or other
pastry, in which butter or lard has been mixed
with the flour. This makes what we call a short
cake. Hence our familiar simile, "as *short* as pye-
crust," applied to a snappish, testy, person. That
it is O. E. we may gather from *SH.* Merry Wives
of Windsor, where Master Slender's man Simple
talks of Alice *Shortcake*.

SHORTENING, *s.* any thing mixed with flour, which
makes the pastry *short*.

SHORTS, *s. pl.* bran mixed with a small proportion
of the flour, which, perhaps, is reckoned a sort of
shortening. It must certainly make it lighter, as
well as more nutritive, to the fattening pigs, to which
it is given. *BR.* *sharps*; but with us "*sharps*"
means the bran, ground a second time, which
makes it finer, but not more nutritive.

SHOSHINGS, *adv.* *V.* *ASHOSH*.

SHOT, SHOAT, *s.* a half-grown pig. It may, per-
haps, be so called from its being of proper age and
size to be fattened. A. S. *sceot*, paratus. R. S. E. O.
w. c.

SHOVE, *v.*

1. To cast the first teeth (pronounced like "grove").

2. To germinate; to shoot. Neither of these senses is recognised in the *DICTIONARY*.

SHOW, *v.* (pronounced like *cow*) to push or thrust. Certainly the same with *shove*; but we seem to distinguish them by use. In *showing*, some force must be used. *Shoving* may be quietly and silently performed, as in the instances given under that word.

SHREEVE, *s.* the sheriff, *o. E.* and a good word, more easily formed than *sheriff*. Thus, *shere-reeve*, *shreeve*, *shreeve*.

SHROUGH, *s.* (pronounced *shruff*) fragments of sticks; bits of coal, cinders, &c. picked up by the poor for fuel. Occasionally applied, indeed, to any sort of refuse or sweepings. *JEN. scrawf.*

SHROVY, *adj.* shabby; ragged; squalid. From *shrough*.

SHUCKY, *adj.* *V. SHACKY.*

SHUCK-TROT, SHUG-TROT, *s.* a low, lazy, and yet shaking trot. "The butter woman's rate to market."

SHUG, *v.* to shake. *Shog*, in the same sense, is said in *T. J.* to be a very ancient word. It is certainly used by Wickliffe. But all these words are connected, and run one into another, *shake*, *shack*, *shuck*, *shug*, *shog*.

SHUG, SHUGGING, *s.* concussion. *Ex.* "Give the tree a good *shug*, and the fruit will fall."

SHULVE, *s.* a shovel. *T. sholee.* *JEN. showl.* *W. C. shool.* *BR. shuil.*

SHUTTING-IN, *s.* evening; the time of shutting doors and windows.

SHY, *v.* to start as a horse; or to make to start. Its

connection with the adjective *shy* is obvious.

R. S. E. C.

SICH, *adj.* such. O. E. V. D.

SIDE, *adj.* long, as applied to apparel. In the P. L. we find directions for making a short gown out of a *side* one. In modern usage, however, we seem to depart strangely from the ancient, and to use the word in the sense of strait. Ex. "This sleeve is too *side*, it must be let out." Or, "it is too loose, it must be made *sider*." This confusion may have arisen from the equal inconvenience and difficulty of motion in a garment too long or too strait. It is, however, assuredly from A. S. *side*, longus. O. E. S. H. W. W. R.

SIDLINGS, *adv.* aside; sideways. Women sit on horseback *sidlings*, and men straddlings. The words are respectively formed from *sidle* and straddle. It is observable that many words in our dialect, and the L. sc. have this termination, *ins* or *ings*, as equivalent to the Latin adverbial termination *ter*. V. SO-INS.

SIGHT, *s.* a great number, such as to attract particular notice. Ex. "What a *sight* of fine folks at the races!"

SILE, *v.*

1. To strain, as milk, &c. to take out any dregs or impurity.
2. To allow a turbid fluid to remain unmoved, that it may deposit its sediment.

Sui-G. *sila*, colare. L. sc. PE. BR.

SILT, SILTH, *s.* sand, ooze, or mud, deposited and left by an overflow. *Silth*, from *sile*, is as regu-

larly formed as filth from file. This is the proper interpretation, not a colluvies, or general accumulation of filth, as it is given in T. J. At least, we mean only a deposit of sand; though, certainly, other impurities may be accidentally mixed with the *silt*.

SILLY-BOLD, *adj.* impertinently and unbecomingly free; assuming unseemly airs; applied to petulant and forward youth.

SIMONT, *pr. n.* Simon. It is observable that Wickliffe uniformly calls the Apostle Peter *Symount*. This proves our mispronunciation even venerably ancient. In the real and original name, in the language of Scripture, there is certainly no *y*, *u*, or *t*.

SIMPER, *v.* to simmer. Skinner deduces these two words from the same etymon, and spells the latter of them *simber*; most probably because it was so pronounced at that time in Lincolnshire, the county in which he was resident. This Mr. Todd ventures to call foolish. If the still existing use of *simper*, in the very next county, may be allowed to throw any light on that of *simber* 150 years ago, we so far vindicate the most judicious, and generally most cautious, of our etymologists, from such a censure.

SILT-UP, *v.* to obstruct the course of a stream, or the free passage of boats upon it, by a large accumulation of sand.

SIN, SEN, *ad.* since. O. E. P. G. P. L. *passim*. CH.

SINGLE-STICK, *s.* a sort of cudgel-play, requiring only one hand, whereas quarter-staff employs both. Strutt makes no mention of this exercise in his *Gliggamena Angel*. Theod.; unless it be inci-

dentally and indirectly at the bottom of p. 196 ; where, speaking of single rapier, he observes, after Stow, that "some fought with clubs or bludgeons instead of swords, retaining the buckler;" and he illustrates this by an engraving from a MS. of the 14th century. It appears, then, that the *single-stick* was the legitimate and ancient substitute for the single rapier, and ought certainly to have a place in our DICTIONARY. In all probability, the use of it is pretty extensive. A wand or stick, much too slender to be called a club or bludgeon, is now used, and there is nothing defensive but a basket to inclose the hand. The buckler is entirely disused. JEN.

SIR HARRY, *s.* a close-stool. In L. sc. this piece of furniture is called a Sir John, or a Knight ; and Dr. Jamieson is inclined to think that the appellation was given about the time of the Reformation, in contempt of the Pope's Knights, as they were called, the Mass-Priests. We know that, long before that time, the title *Sir* was commonly prefixed to the name of a priest, not from any comparison of him with a knight, but because those reverend persons commonly had, or were supposed to have, taken the degree of Bachelor of Arts, who always have been, and still are, styled *Sirs* in both our Universities. Chaucer has a *Sir* John. All Shakespeare's Clerical personages are *Sirs*, *Sir* Hugh, *Sir* Nathaniel, &c. In the will of a Norfolk Clergyman, dated 1579, he calls himself *Sir* George Morley. In the register of the parish, a few years afterwards, he is called "*Mr.* Morley, late Rector," &c. Admitting Jamieson's conjecture of the con-

temptuous application of the term, we have only to conjecture farther, that the Popish Clergy took their revenge for the gross insult, by calling the same private domestic convenience by the name of their brutal and unprincipled plunderer.

SIRS, *s. pl.* In *o. e.* sometimes written *Sers*, and thence, as we pronounce it, *Sars*. The common use of it, as a term of address, seems strangely inconsistent with the usual application of *Sir*. No respect is implied by it; but, on the contrary, superiority. It would be offensive to address it to superiors, or even to equals. It is a form of accosting inferiors only, as servants, and of both sexes. A farmer says to his domestics collectively, "You may all go the fair, *Sars*, for I shall stay at home." This cannot be the *Fr. Sieurs*. But may it not be *Norm. Fr. serfs*? If so, the proper spelling of it (*Sers*) was in time lost, and confounded with *Sirs*. This would serve to explain Mrs. Ford's odd address to her servants in *SH. Merry Wives of Windsor*: "Go, *Sirs*, take up the basket." In *Love's Labour Lost*, the King calls Costard and Jacquenetta "*Sirs*." In the account of the shipwreck, *Acts*, xxvii. St. Paul calls the crew "*Sirs*;" in the original it is simply *ανδρες*, men.

SITHE, *v.* to sigh. *o. e.* *sihe*, of which our word seems a corruption.

SIZZLE, *v.* to dry and shrivel up with hissing, by the action of fire on some greasy or juicy substance.

SKELP, *v.* to kick with violence. It never means striking with the hand, or moving briskly, as in *L. sc.* *w. c.* to leap awkwardly. *BR.* to strike; to move rapidly. *Isl. skelfa*, percutio.

SKELP, *s.* a strong kick.

SKEP, *s.*

1. A basket wider at top than at bottom. In G. A. *sceppe* is a bushel; but we have bushel-*skeps*, and *skeps* of various sizes. BR.

2. A bee-hive is always a bee-*skep*. BR.

SKEW, *v.* to start aside, as a horse, at some object which scares him. Our countryman L'Estrange, in one of his Fables, speaks of "*skewing* and shailing," q. v. Teut. *schew*, timidus.

SKEW-BALD, *adj.* pied, or party-coloured. Applied particularly to a horse in which the mixture of colours is bay and white. w.c. Horses of mixed colours have generally been held in contempt, though caprice may sometimes bring them into partial and temporary fashion. It may therefore be (as a lean deer is called a rascal) from Dan. *skabbals*, nebulo.

SKILLET, *s.* a small pot of iron or copper with a long handle. O. E. PE.

SKIMMER, *v.* to flutter or frisk about lightly. It is a frequent. of *skim*. Pegge speaks of "*skimmering* light." We should call it a *shimmering* light. The words may perhaps be connected.

SKINCH, *v.* to stint; to pinch; to give short commons.

SKINK, *v.* to serve at table; particularly to serve the guests with drink.

SKINKER, *s.* one who serves drink. In alehouse parties, in which the word is principally used, it is applied to one of the company who takes upon him-

self to fill the glasses or horns, and to call for more liquor, when it is wanted. The waiter, who brings it in, is not called the *skinker*, but the *tender*, q. v. Johnson says both verb and substantive are "quite obsolete." We have strong proof that they are not.

A. s. *scenc*, potus.

SKIP-JACK, *s.* the merry-thought of a fowl, converted into a little toy by means of a twisted thread and a small piece of stick. BR.

SKIRL, *v.* to shrivel up something dry, by too much heat; as parchment, card, or paper *skirl* up before the fire. It may, however, be merely prefixing *s* to *curl*; and therefore to be spelled *scur*l.

SKIRMIDGE, *s.* a skirmish. O. E.

SKIT, *s.* an oblique stroke of wit or satire; a reflection.

SKIT, *v.* to aim oblique reflections. The derivation from A. s. is expressive, but offensive, and may be spared. BR.

SKIVE, *v.* to pare off the thicker parts of hides, to make them of uniform substance, in order to their being tanned. Sui.-G. *skifna*.

SKIVINGS, *s. pl.* the parings of hides, to be boiled into glue.

SKIWANIKIN, **SKIWINCKIN**, *adj.* or *adv.* awry; crooked; warped.

SKIZZLE, *s.* a large marble, rolled along the ground at others placed in a ring, to displace as many of them as possible, as at the game of *skittles*.

SLAB, *s.*

1. The outer cut of a timber or other tree when sawn into planks. W. C.

2. A slave ; a drudge. The boy who serves the mason is called his *slab*. But, perhaps, in this case he may be called from the *slabby* stuff he carries to his master, or from his carrying it on a piece of a *slab*, and not corruptly from *slave*,

SLADE, *s.*

1. A green road. O. E. A. S. *slæd*, vallis. BR.

2. A sled or sledge.

SLADE, *v.* to carry on a sledge. Heavy weights are easily *sladed* on level ground. T.

SLAR, SLARE, *v.* to bedawb. L. SC. *slairy*. Isl. *slar*, piscium sordes.

SLARY, *adj.* bedawbed.

SLATTER, *v.* to wash in a careless and *slatternly* manner, throwing the water about, &c. L. SC. *slud-der*. JEN. *slotter*. W. W. R. *slutter*.

SLATTERING-WEATHER, SLAVERING-WEATHER, *s.* a frequency or continuance of slight rain.

SLAZY, *adj.* of loose and open texture, easily torn, and soon worn out ; for which faults, it seems, the manufactures of Silesia were formerly remarkable. JEN. gives *sleezy* and *sleeze*, verb, to come to pieces,

SLED, *s.* and *v.* V. SLADE.

SLEEPER, *s.*

1. The stump of a tree left in the ground.

2. A rushlight. T.

SLEIGHT, *s.*

1. The knack of doing any thing. This sense is, perhaps, common enough, but not distinctly given in the DICTT.

2. Ready calculation ; shrewd judgment.

SLENT, *s.* a gentle slope in the surface of the ground.

SLIFT, *s.* the fleshy part of the leg of beef. The grand round of beef is the upper and under *slift* together. From *sliver*.

SLIGHTY, *adj.* slim; weak.

SLIMSLACKET, *adj.* of very thin texture; loose and flaccid.

SLINK, *v.* to suffer abortion, as applied to a cow only.

The cow *slinks* her calf, the mare *slips* her foal, the ewe *warps* her lamb. Other animals are, in like case, said to *cast* the embryo. O. E. L. sc.

SLINK-CALF, *s.* the abortion of a cow. W. C.

SLINK-VEAL, *s.* miserable lean veal, which looks like the flesh of an abortion. L. sc. W. C. Teut. *schlenken*, abjicere.

SLIVER, SLIVING, *s.* a slice of flesh. CH. seems to mean a small slice. We always mean a large one, and pronounce the *i* long, as directly from the verb *slive*. A. S. *slifan*, findere. W. C. a thin slice.

SLOD, *v.* to wade through mire, half-dissolved snow, &c. Isl. *slood*, via in nive trita.

SLOP, *s.* an outside garment, reaching to mid-leg, worn by children, and by some workmen. It may be commonly supposed to take its name from its protecting the other garments from dirt or wet. But it is of higher origin. A. S. *slop*, stola.

SLOP, *s.* underwood. PE. In L. sc. *Slop* means a gap; among us, the materials to stop it with.

SLOP-WASH, *s.* an occasional and hasty washing of small linen, wanted before the return of the great family washing-day.

SLOVEN-WOOD, *s.* southern-wood. *Artemisia abrotanum*, Lin.

SLUB, *s.* thick mire, in which there is some danger of sticking fast. Dan. *slubra*, ingurgitare.

SLUG-HORN, *s.* a short and ill-formed horn of an animal of the ox kind, turned downwards, and appearing to have been stunted in its growth. Perhaps it may have been contemptuously named thus, from some fancied resemblance to that common reptile called the *slug*, the snail without a shell. At least, it is not possible to conceive any connexion between this and the *slug-horn* in L. sc. That was the *slogan*, or war-cry, to raise the clans. It was given probably with the *horns* of their black cattle, and the most perfect and sonorous that could be had. What we call *slug-horns* could certainly not have answered the purpose.

SLUMP, *v.* to sink suddenly and deep into mud or rotten ground. Though the unwary walker, who has the mishap to *slump*, may not sink deeper than his ancles, or, at most, his knees, the word may be Sui.-G. *slump*, totum aliquod. R. N. S. E. C. BR.

SLUR, **SLURRY**, *s.* loose, thin, almost fluid mud. The reverse of *slub*. Teut. *slorig*, sordidus.

SLURRUP, *v.* to swallow any liquid greedily, and with a noise of the lips or in the throat. L. sc. *slorpe*. Teut. *slorpe*, vorago. BR. *slorp*.

SLUSH, *s.*

1. Loose mud.

2. Filthy talk. Figuratively.

Sui.-G. *slask*, humor sordidus. BR. who says it is reproachfully applied to a dirty person.

SLUSHY, *adj.*

1. Miry.

2. Foul-mouthed. Ex. "A *slushy* fellow."

SMEAGRE, *adj.* thin; lean. By no means a corruption. Quite the reverse! The original word itself.

A. s. *smicre*, tenuis.

SMEATH, *s.* an open level of considerable extent.

The word is not very common; but in one instance, at least, it has obtained much celebrity. Every one who has heard of the Swaffham Coursing Meeting, has heard also of the fame of Markam *Smeath*, or as it is commonly pronounced and printed in the accounts of those sports, *The Smee*.

A. s. *smæth*, planus.

SMICK, **SMICKET**, *s.* delicate diminutives of *smock*.

SMOCK-FROCK, *s.* an outer garment of coarse linen, worn by labourers, who are so employed as not to want the free exercise of all their limbs; sometimes reaching no lower than the waist, sometimes to the mid-leg. The latter is principally worn by waggoners. JEN.

SMOCK-MILL, *s.* a corn-mill, of a shape supposed to resemble that garment. If a mill of this form be mounted on a basement of stone or brick some few feet high, forming a storehouse under it, it assumes the more dignified appellation of a tower-mill.

SMORE, *v.* to abound; to swarm. JAM. has the word, and PE. *smoor*, in the sense of *smother*. We do not use it in that sense. But ours is figuratively connected with it; as when we say that a very numerous swarm of bees "come *smoring* out of the hive,"

there is a strong resemblance to a cloud of *smoke*.

A. S. *smoran*, suffocare. BR. to *smother*.

SMORE, *s.* a great and crowded multitude; as a *smore* of people, animals, or whatever else it may consist of.

SMOTCH, *s.* a blot or stain. SH. uses *smirch*, more than once, in much the same sense, which Johnson derives, not satisfactorily, from *murk*. Ours, however, cannot be the same word. *Smutch* seems to be another form of it, which occurs also in SH. Winter's Tale, "thou hast *smutched* thy nose," The L. sc. *smot*, appears to be a third form. Sui.-G. *smotz*, macula.

● SMOTCH, *v.* to stain; to defile. Ex. "I have *smotched* my fingers with *crock*."

SMOUCH, *v.* to kiss with a loud smack. O. E. PE.

SMOUCH, *s.* a coarse kiss.

SMUR, *s.* small misty rain, which seems to fill the air like *smoke*. It falls so lightly on the skin, as to seem rather to *smear* or anoint, than to wet it. It seems as if we might choose between A. S. *smoran*, suffocare, and *smirian*, ungere.

SMUR, *v.* to rain lightly and mistily. Ex. "To *smur* of a rain."

SNACK, SNECK, SNICK, *s.* a sort of fastening for a door, used in one or more of these forms in V. D. In T. J. it is said to be of uncertain etymology, but no choice is proposed. SK. supposes it named from the string which lifts the latch. This will not satisfy us, for such a sort of fastening is not called a snack, but a *latch* or a *string-latch*. A *snack* must be of iron: and is either a thumb-*snack*, in which

the latch is lifted by pressing the thumb on the broad end of a short lever which moves it ; or it is a hand-*snack*, which acts upon the latch by a spring. In short, it is any sort of iron fastening which does not include a lock-*snack*, and may very well stand under Jamieson's derivation from Teut. *snacken*, capture. And from the secrecy and silence with which a door so fastened may be opened and entered, *sneck* or *snick* (the first of which is the most usual form) seem of kin to the verb *sneak*, and may fairly be supposed to descend with it from A. S. *snican*, repere. BR.

SNAG, *s.* a rough knob or gnarl on a tree. Not positively either a provincial or a low word ; which, however, the adjective formed from it certainly is. BR. *knaggs*.

SNAGGY, *adj.* morose, coarse, and rough in temper. Not properly testy and peevish, as GR. gives, and as T. J. takes it. Therefore not from Teut. *snack*, but belonging figuratively to the substantive *snag*. Or it may come from Isl. *snagga*, litigare. GR. L. SC. BR.

SNARL, *v.* to twist, entangle, and knot together ; as a skein, in winding off. JEN. O. E. *insnarl*. L. SC. *snurl*. Isl. *snurda*, fila contorta. PR. PA.

SNASTE, *s.* the burning wick or snuff of a candle. O. E. R. N. S. E. C.

SNASTY, *adj.* captious ; passionate. " To take a thing in snuff," however low an expression it may now sound, was formerly used by very good authors in the most serious composition ; by Bp. Andrewes, for instance, in his Sermons. It manifestly

conveys the same idea as this word. To be angry is to take something in snuff.

SNEER, *v.* to make wry faces, without intention of expressing contempt or insult, which the word, in its general sense implies.

A SNEERING-MATCH, *s.* a grinning match. The competition of two, or more, clowns endeavouring to surpass each other in making ugly faces for a prize or wager; of which matches we had many in the rural fêtes given at the close of the revolutionary war.

SNICKER-SNEE, *s.* a large clasp knife. This word was probably brought to us by the Dutch, in whose language it is said to have the same meaning.

SNICKLE, SNITTLE, *s.* a slip-knot. Ex. "Tie it in a *snickle*, not in a tight knot." From the facility with which it is loosed, it seems to be connected with the imperfect mode of closing a door by a *sneck* or *snick*. Indeed, what is a *snickle* but a little *snick*? To "*snickle* hares," as we learn from **rx.** means, in Derbyshire, to snare them. This sort of snare we also call a *snickle*, holding fast indeed, but easily loosened by pulling it in the right direction.

SNICKUP, *v.* begone; away with you! It is somewhat a puzzling word. It is certain that this was the meaning of it in **o. x.** And in the slight modern use we make of it, all that can be said is, that it may as well have that as any other; at least, that it must have a connected one. In many old comedies it occurs as a term of strong contempt; as intimating a wish for the removal of the person to whom it is applied—in *malam rem*! To confine ourselves,

however, to Shakspeare; in the Twelfth Night, when Malvolio comes to disturb the midnight revels of Sir Toby and his drunken companions, the Knight bids him *sneckup!* "that is, go and be hanged! In the 2d part of Henry IV. Falstaff impudently calls the Prince a *sneakup*, in all probability in this same sense, though the commentators explain it *sneak-cup*, and understand it as a reproach for leaving his liquor; to which violation of the laws of good fellowship the Royal Hal seems to have been very little addicted. Perhaps it may not have existed within our limits in the same currency and familiarity, but to this day it does exist. A silly sort of childish charm is frequently to be heard, used perhaps by children only, supposed to be very efficacious in curing the hiccup. It is this, "Hiccup! *snickup!* rise up, right up! Three sups in a cup are good for the hiccup!" If these potent words (given with some variation in M. S. and BR.) can be deliberately repeated thrice, and as many sips of cold water taken, without the return of the singultus, the cure is complete. Prince Hohenlohe himself never wrought a more indisputable cure. Steevens, in his note on *sneckup* in the Twelfth Night, mentions the *sneck* of the door, but makes no explanatory use of it. It is surely not improbable that the connexion is this, "*Snickup!* lift the *sneck* and begone, thou vexatious hiccup!"

SNICKUPS, *s. pl.* an undefined and undefinable malady, but not always easily cured. To say of a man that he has "got the *snickups*," means rather that he fancies himself ill, than that he really is so. It

is by no means so alarming an ailment as a "flap of cold," q. v. It may have its name partly, because it rhymes to hiccup; and partly, because it is not unlikely to be acted upon by the same, or by some similar medical treatment. It may be added, that "a poor *snickuppy* creature!" is sometimes applied to a pale-faced, petted, and pampered child, always pining and puling. In this case, indeed, the words seem to have a more perceptible reference to the O. E. sense.

SNIGGER, v. to sneer ill-naturedly; to giggle or titter sarcastically. It may have some connection with *sneer*.

SNIPPOCK, s. a very small morsel. From *snip*.

SNOUL, s. a short thick cut from the crusty part of a loaf or a cheese.

SNUDGE, v. Not to "lie" *snug*, as in T. J. Motion is generally, if not always, implied; and motion as brisk as an aged person may use. Ex. "The old woman went *snudging* along;" i. e. snugly wrapped up, with arms folded and head inclined, making the best of her way. It may even come from A. S. *snude*, celeriter.

SNUSKIN, s. a nicety; a tid-bit.

SOAK, v. to bake thoroughly. It is particularly applied to bread, which, to be good, must be macerated, as it were, in the caloric of the oven. If it be dough-baked, the complaint is, that it has not been sufficiently *soaked*.

SOCK, s. the superficial moisture of land not properly drained off.

ŞOCKY, adj. moist on the surface. These words are,

no doubt, the same with *soak* and *soaky*, by different pronunciation of the original word. A. S. *socian*, humectare.

SOE, *s.* a large tub, carried by two men on a stout staff, or stang, passing through two iron rings at its top, for the conveyance of water, grains, hog-wash, &c. Fr. *seau*.

SOIL, *v.* to fatten completely.

SOILING, *s.* the last fattening food given to fowls when they are taken up from the stack or barn-door, and cooped for a few days. Fr. *saoul*.

SO-INS, *adv.* in this or that manner, taliter. We also say *so-fashions* in the same sense; but not so grammatically. V. SIDDLINS.

SOLDIER, *v.* to be disposed to give, or take, affront; to swagger; to bully.

SOLL, *v.* to pull by the ears. It is thus written because we pronounce the *o* short. In O. E. it is *sowle*, and may probably be from *sow*, as it is principally applied to swine. SH. Coriolanus, speaks of "*sowling* the porter of Rome gates by the ears." In Suffolk it is pronounced *sowl*.

SOLLER, *s.* a loft. It is very O. E. and anciently meant any loft or upper room. It seems now to be confined to a belfry; which is sometimes called the bell-soller, sometimes simply the *soller*. Fr. *sollier*. T. R. S. E. C.

SOLLOP, *v.* to lounge; to waste time in utter laziness and inaction. It may be derived from any one of the three A. S. words below. From the first, because it is descriptive of the person who *sollops*; from the second, because it is a very fit place for

him; and from the third, because he well deserves it. A. S. *solcen*, deses; *sole*, volutabrum; *sol*, lorum.

SORDS, *s. pl.* filth; washings; off-scourings. It looks temptingly derivable from Lat. *sordes*. And it may be so; but more likely from Isl. *saurda*, polluere.

SORE, *adj.* sorry; vile; worthless. Ex. "He made a *sore* hand of it!" It is O. E. In the last scene of SH. Tempest, Stephano is taunted by Prospero with pretending to be king of the isle, and answers, "I should have been a *sore* one, then;" quibbling between the two senses of *sore*, and alluding to his having been hunted, pinched, and cramped. We need not scruple to refer it to *sords*.

SORE, SORELY, *adv.* very; exceedingly. Of different meaning and origin from the last word. Here is no allusion to pain, as in the common acceptance of *sore*, nor to worthlessness, as in the preceding. It seems simply to denote excess, either in a good or a bad sense. It is O. E. in both. In the latter, it is very frequent in B. TR. "I am *sore* smitten," &c. In the former, it is said in Fox's Martyrs, that "Good men delight *sore*," &c. In both senses, it is also familiarly used in modern E. A. in which a man is indifferently said to be "*sorely* grieved," or "*sorely* pleased," with what befalls him. Teut. *seer*, valde. L. SC. *sair*.

SORT, *s.* a great number. Ex. "I have been there a *sort* of times." SH. "I see a *sort* of traitors here." B. TR. BR.

SOSS, SUSS, *s.* a jumble, or mixed mess of food. Always used in contempt. But it must be Old Fr. *sausse*. L. SC. R. N. C. JEN. *soos*. BR. anything foul and muddy.

SOTTER, *v.* to boil gently. *Sottering*, in the case of a thick mixture of ingredients, seems to mean the same as the simmering of more fluid matter. It belongs to *A. s. seothian*, ballire.

SOUPINGS, *s. pl.* any sort of spoon-meat.

SOW, *s.* the insect called millipes. It is a common word, and admitted into **DICTIONARY**, and is only inserted here, in order to observe upon it, that the quadruped of this name is in *A. s. suga* and the insect *sugge*, and that it is to be wished two animals so very widely different, should have been as well distinguished by names in the derived, 'as they are in the original, language.

SORZLE, SOZZLE, *v.* to intermingle in a confused heap. Perhaps it may be connected figuratively with *soss*, *q. v.*

SORZLE, *s.* an odd mixture of different things ; generally applied to a compound of various ingredients boiled together for a medicine. *Ex.* "How can she be well? She is always taking one *sorzle* or other."

SOWSE, *s.*

1. The paunch of an animal, usually sold for dogs' meat.

2. Pigs feet or ears pickled are called *sowse* in Suffolk.

SPANK, *v.* to move swiftly and stoutly. *Ex.* "How he did *spank* along!"

SPANKER, *s.* a person who takes long steps with agility ; a stout or tall person. *T. J.* It is there said to be used "in some parts of the North." In *BR.* it is a tall and active youth. It seems, indeed, to be pretty generally used in low and familiar lan-

guage. These words have much the air of cant fabrications. But they are by no means destitute of ancient authority. They may be legitimate descendants of Isl. *spinka*, decursitare, or *spenna*, extendere.

SPANKING, *adj.*

1. Moving nimbly ; striding along stoutly.
2. Shewy ; conspicuous ; especially if large.

SPARCH, *adj.* brittle.

SPAR-DUST, *s.* powder of post ; dust produced in wood by the depredation of boring insects. It is to be distinguished from *saw-dust*.

SPATE-BONE, **SPAUT-BONE**, *s.* the shoulder-bone of an animal slain for food. *Spade-bone*, from its shape, is pretty common, and is O. E. The first of our words may come from the Greek *σπαθην*, deprived of its aspirate in passing through some Gothic dialect. It is used by Fuller. The second can be no more than a corruption of it. It might be from the Old Fr. *espaule*, if there were any possibility of accounting for the substitution of *t* for *l*.

SPECK, *s.*

1. The sole of a shoe. The heel of the shoe is, by way of distinction, called the *heel-speck*. "These old shoes must be *heel-specked*."
2. The fish commonly called a sole ; from its resemblance in shape.

SPEND, *v.*

1. To span with the fingers. Apparently a mere corruption, but O. E. occurring in P. B.
2. To consume or expend. Ex. "We *spend* so much meat, flour, cheese, &c. in our family weekly."

SPENDER, *s.* a consumer. A "small *spender*" is a person who has very little appetite.

SPENDING-CHEESE, *s.* cheese of a middling quality, used for family consumption in the dairy districts of Suffolk, considerably superior to the Bang, or Thump, for which they are so celebrated, but by no means equal to Gloucester.

SPERE, *s.* a spire. Just as we use shere for shire. Both are *o. e.*

SPERKEN, SPERKET, *s.* a wooden peg to hang hats, &c. upon. In *R. S. E. C.* *sperget*.

SPETTACLE, *s.* a spectacle. *Ex.* "Poor creature! he was a shocking *spettacle*." It is not impossible that this word may have come to us from the Italian, and have retained thus much of its proper form. *Ital. spettacolo.*

SPIKIN, SPEKIN, *s.* a large nail with a round flat head.

SPILE, *s.* a wedge of wood stoutly pointed with iron, used in clay or gravel pits, limestone quarries, &c. to let down large quantities at once. In *L. sc.* it means a palisade. Perhaps the same etymon may serve the word in both senses. *Sui.-G. spiale, lamina lignea.*

SPILE-HOLE, *s.* the air-hole in a cask. *BR.*

SPILE-PEG, *s.* the wooden peg closing the hole for the admission of air into a cask when it is tapped. *BR.*

SPINK, *s.* a chaffinch. *O. E. W. W. R. pink.*

SPIRIT, *s.* electric fire; a blast of lightning. *Ex.* "In the great tempest, a *spirit* lit upon the Church steeple."

SPIT, *s.* the depth of a spade in digging. We talk of going two or three *spit* deep. It comes easily from *spid*, and *spid* as easily from A. S. *spæd*, ligo. JEN. *spit*.

SPITTLE, *s.* a term of supreme contempt, or rather loathing, which those who love to find analogies between English and Greek may consider as equivalent to the term *κατακτυστος* in Demosthenes; but which may be more safely understood, as likening the person to whom it is applied to an inhabitant of a lazaret-house, *spital* or *spittle*. O. E. "Oh you nasty *spittle*!" q. d. filthy fellow! dirty creature.

SPOFFLE, *v.* to be over busy about little or nothing.

SPOLT, *adj.* brittle; chiefly applied to wood; easily separable into fragments. It is *spalt* in P. E. This establishes its connexion with *spall*, which, as is observed in T. J. is a very old word in our language, in the sense of a chip. Sui.-G. *spiaell*, segmentum
Exm. P. R. P. A.

SPONG, *s.* a long narrow slip of enclosed land, such as a strong active fellow might clear in a *spang* or leap. *Spong-water* is a narrow streamlet; and so from Isl. *spenna*, extendere.

SPORE, *s.* a spur. The proper word. A. S. *spora*, calcar. CH.

SPRAID, *v.* to sprinkle; to spatter; to moisten with spray.

SPRAWLS, *s.* small twigs, or branches of trees or bushes.

SPRECKLED, *adj.* speckled. Sui.-G. *sprechlot*, maculatus.

SPRING, *s.* young plants of white-thorn, to make hedges.

SPRINGE, *v.* to spread lightly; to sprinkle.

SPRINGER, *s.* a youth. In *L. sc.* *springald*.

SPRINK, *s.* a crack; a flaw.

SPRIT, *s.* a pole to push a boat forward. *A. s.* *spreot*, *contus*.

SPRUNNY, *adj.* neat; spruce.

SPUD, *s.* any person, or thing, remarkably short of its kind.

SPUDDY, *adj.* very short and stumpy.

SPUFFLE, *v.* to move hastily, with an ostentatious air of business and bustle.

SPUFFLING, *part.* moving as above. Ex. "I saw Mr. A. *spuffling* along.

SPUNKY, *adj.* brisk; mettlesome. No uncommon vulgarism. In *O. E.* *spunk* is touchwood. *A. s.* *spoon*, fomes.

SQUASH, *v.* to splash; to moisten by plentiful affusion.

SQUAT, *v.* to quiet; to put to silence. Ex. "Pray, nurse, *squat* the child."

SQUATTING-PILLS, *s. pl.* an opiate in the form of pills. Ex. "He got no rest till the doctor gave him some *squatting-pills*." In this, and the two preceding words, the *a* is pronounced as in *hat*.

SQUIGGLE, *v.* to shake and wash a fluid about the mouth, with the lips closed.

SQUINDER, *v.* to burn very faintly, or even insensibly, as damp fuel, which does not kindle into a flame, and gives out no heat, but yet is consumed. It is said to *squinder*, or be *squindered* away. So is

the candle which has a bad wick. Perhaps it is to be considered as a dimin. of *squander*. The fuel or the candle is unprofitably wasted.

SQUINNY, v.

1. To look askint. Ex. "Child, do not *squinny* your eyes so."
2. To cause to look askint. To produce that uneasy sensation, which is produced by objects obliquely and confusedly presented, as if they had the effect of distorting vision. They "*squinny* one's eyes." We talk also of having "*squinny* eyes," and of being *squinny-eyed*." These seem to be attempts to smooth off, or soften down, the offensive term *squint*.

SQUINNY, adj. very lean; meagre; slender; shadowy, &c. Sometimes it is *squinny-gutted*.

SQUISH, v. a dimin. of *squash*. The water *squishes* under our feet in the grass, if it be walked on too soon after rain. It is used by Swift.

SQUIT, s. a word of supreme contempt for a very diminutive person. "A paltry *squit*!" In O. E. it was *squib*; but that word seems to be lost, and the more is the pity, for at any rate it was less offensively contemptuous.

STAG, s.

1. A wren.
2. A cock turkey, killed for the table in his second year; by which time he has often reached the weight of twenty pounds or more. The Isl. word below is said to mean any male bird. In BR. a gander is a *stag*. Certainly we use it with much more propriety in the second than in the first of the

instances given here. Isl. *stegga*, mas plurium ferarum.

STAM, v. to astonish; to overcome with amazement.

Ex. "It is a *stamming* story, indeed!"

STAM, s. a matter of amazement.

STANCHIONS, s. pl. iron bars, dividing and guarding a window; not used for a prop or support as in T. J. L. sc. *stanchins*. Fr. *étançons*.

STAND, v.

1. Phr. "To *stand* in hand," to concern; behove; or interest. Ex. "It *stands* you in hand to look to that." w. c. "It *stands* you on."

2. Phr. "To *stand* holes," to rest content as one happens to be at présent. It seems to be an allusion to some game played by moving pegs from one hole to another, as on a cribbage-board.

STANK, s. a dam. In L. sc. it means a pond. In its nature, a *stank* converts, in some sort, into a pond, that part of the water which it intercepts; so there is a connexion between the two senses. N. Fr. *estanche*.

STANSTICKLES, s. pl. small fish, with many names, all A. S. The name in the Linnæan system is *Gasterosteus aculeatus*, from having its belly covered by a bony process, set with spines. *Stanstickle* is A. S. *stan*, lapis, and *sticcel*, aculeus, its natural and favourite haunt being brooks and rivulets with a pebbly bottom, against which it is protected by its bony and spiny belly. Sometimes, however, these little animals multiply so prodigiously, that they are forced out of their native

streamlets, into branches of great rivers, or even into the main stream, in such countless myriads, that they seem even to fill it up; and it is impossible to dip a pail in any part without bringing up hundreds of them. Thus they are swept away to the sea, and perish; unless they be stopped in their progress, as they were some few years ago in the river Ouse, above Lynn, which they appeared almost to choke up; and tainted the air ten miles round, with their stench, as they were carried away by the farmers for manure, in two or three successive years of exorbitant price of produce. They are more generally called *stuttles*, an easy variation of *stickle*, or A. S. *sticcel*. Another of their names is *stuttle-bag* or *stuttle-back*. The former is the better, as the *stickles* are not on the *back* (which would still, indeed, be A. S. *bæc*, dorsum), but on the *belly*, but a step or two from A. S. *buce*, venter. As *stickle* is obsolete, the DICTT. call them, *prickle-bags* or *prickle-backs* (still A. S. *priccle*, aculeus). But of all these names, let us claim *stan-stickle*, as most literally original, and (say what men will, about its being vulgar and provincial) most scientifically descriptive.

STATESMAN, *s.* the proprietor of an estate. L. SC. BR.

STAVE, *s.* a step or round of a ladder. It is not in T. J. but ought to have been, as it is recognised in one of his authorities of 150 years standing; and it is therefore particularly entitled to a place here, to prove that it is still alive.

STAVE-OFF, *v.* to put off some unwelcome task from time to time; as it were, to fight it off with a staff.

STEAD, *v.* to supply a place left vacant. Ex. "I am at last *steaded*" with a servant, a house, a horse, or whatever else I have been in want of.

STEAD, *s.* a place to stand on; as a *fair-stead* is the ground on which a fair is held. A. S. *stede*, locus.

STENT, *s.* stint. The more ancient form. CH. L. sc.

STEPPLES, *s. pl.* a short and neat flight of steps, as from the parlour window to the garden; to reach the upper shelves of a book-case, or something else, in which appearance is to be considered.

STERT, *v.* to start. No more than a difference of pronunciation as in *clerk* and in some other words. But ours is the ancient form. CH.

STERT, *s.* start. Ex. "I have got the *stert* of you."

STETCH, *s.* as much land as lies between one furrow and another. An ancient word, and certainly originally a Greek one. In R. J. *stick* (from *στικος*) is interpreted a verse, a row of trees, and a furrow. We are only concerned with it in the last sense, and only relatively in that. It has passed to us through some Gothic dialect.

STEW, *s.* a cloud of dust or vapour; as from a much frequented road, a lime-kiln, a brew-house, &c. It is another form of *stive*. q. v. Isl. *styfa*, vapor.

STIFLER, *s.* a stickler; one who is very busy and active in any matter; as it were raising a dust. Ex. "She was a high *stifler* upon that occasion."

P. L.

STILTS, *s. pl.* crutches. A lame man is said to walk with *stilts*, which, in the general sense of this word,

must be dreadfully dangerous, if it be at all practicable. But that sense is not the original one.

Ours is, A. S. *stalcan*, grallare. L. *sc.*

STINGY, *adj.*

1. Cross; ill-humoured.
2. Churlish; biting; as applied to the state of the air. PE.

It was most probably in one or in both these senses in which Sir Thomas Browne remarked it as provincial. He must surely have been acquainted with it in its commonly current sense. That, indeed, seems to be perverted from another word, of very different origin. V. T. J. This of ours, in both its senses, is very clearly from A. S. *stinge*, *aculeus*.

STIONY, *s.* a small itching and inflamed pimple among the eye-lashes. It is sometimes *sty*. Both forms are in G. A. The latter only is noticed in T. J. where it is derived, not very happily, from A. S. *stygan*, *ascendere*. In fact, it is the Greek word *στιον*, *lapillus*, probably from its hardness. It is called *stion* by oculists; who, perhaps, are not acquainted with our infallible mode of cure, by rubbing it with the inside of a gold ring. BR. *sty*.

STIR-UP-SUNDAY, *s.* the last Sunday after Trinity; of which the Collect, in our Book of Common Prayer, begins with the words "*Stir up.*" It was very common of old, to denominate Sundays or holidays, from the initial words of the Collect, Anthem, or some other part of the Romish service for the day. Many instances are to be found in the dates of the Paston Letters. This is, perhaps,

the only Protestant instance. A very silly one it is, and if not positively profane, certainly very irreverent. The good housewives who hear it, are supposed, forsooth, to be admonished to think of mixing the ingredients of their mince-pies, of which the proper season is then arrived.

STITH, *s.* an anvil. O. E. CH. T. J.

STIVE, *s.* dust. We use the word in no other sense, which is not given in T. J. V. STEW.

STIVE, *v.* to raise dust. EX. "Go gently, Tom, you *stive* the ladies;" said to an awkward fellow who kicks up clouds of dust in riding or walking.

STOCK, *s.* the back or sides of a fire-place; whence, the simile, "as black as the *stock*." It is no doubt, the same with *stoke*. What we call the *copper-hole*, the furnace under the copper, is in many places called the *stoke-hole*; and, in our breweries, the man whose business it is to tend the fire, is called the *stoker*. The A. S. word *stoc*, interpreted by Lye *locus*, and constituting, under the equivalent form *stoke*, part of the names of many towns and villages, may be understood not to mean any place in general, but a dwelling-place in particular; and, by immediate connection, a fire-place. That is, *focus* might be substituted for *locus*. This synecdoche of the fire-place for the whole house, is very old, and very extensively used. Horace describes his Sabine hamlet, as "*habitatum quinque focus*;" and, what is more to our purpose, in the earliest periods of our history, that, which we now call a house-tax, was called a *hearth-tax*, or *hearth-money*. Upon the whole, we seem to use the word before

us in a proper Saxon sense, though it be generally out of use in that sense.

TODGE, *v.* to stir up various ingredients into a thick mass. JEN. has *stodge*, as a substantive.

STOMACH, *s.* anger.

STOMACH, *v.* to resent.

STOMACHFUL, *adj.* resentful. These three words are all good *o. e.* They are all in *T. J.* and vouched on the authority of sound old divines, and other venerable writers. They are, however, very much out of use; and it is not beside the purpose to insert them here, as still familiarly current among our homely talkers. However low they may be thought to have fallen, they are all even classical. *Stomachus*, *stomachor*, and *stomachosus*! Of the verb we have one sense not mentioned in *T. J.* Ex. "He could not *stomach* the affront." That is, it would not sit easy on his stomach; he could not *digest* it. This is a sense, common enough here, and surely not uncommon any where. It is the very reverse of that of *stomachor*. However, if it be not Latin it is very like Greek. It seems to be exactly equivalent to Homer's *καταπεψαι μεγαν χολον*. JEN. *stomachy*.

STONE-BLIND, *s.* totally blind; blind as a stone.

V. SAND-BLIND.

STONE-WARE, *s.* old-fashioned earthen-ware of a dusky white or greyish colour. SH. speaks of "*stone-jugs*," and we of "*stone-plates, basins*," &c. As this term existed long before the great modern improvements of our pottery in point of form, colour, substance, &c. it does not appear to be ap-

plied to them; and as the utensils to which it was applicable are scarcely any where now to be found, it is fast going, if not gone, into disuse.

STOOP, *s.* an ancient sort of drinking vessel. There are, or were a few years ago, in some colleges at Cambridge, some very old ones, retaining their proper name. "Marian! a stoop of wine," saith Sir Toby in Twelfth Night. *A. S. stoppa*, urna.

STOOR, *v.* to stir. It is *O. E.* Teut. *stooren*, movere.

JEN.

STOOR, *s.*

1. A stir; commotion; bustle. *BR.*

2. *Phr.* "A *stoor* of yeast" is a sufficient quantity for a brewing, be it large or small. It is not so called because kept in *store* (the common pronunciation), but that it is to be *stoored* (stirred) into the wort to excite fermentation.

STORY, *s.* a lie. A sort of mincing synonym used by delicate persons who are afraid of giving offence by using broad words.

STOVER, *s.* winter food for cattle. *SH.* Tempest, applies the name to the coarse rank growth of grass, to be made into hay; "flat meads thatched with *stover*."

STOUND, *s.* a while; a portion of time. *Ex.* "He staid a long *stound*." *A. S. stund*, tempus.

STOUND, *v.*

1. To stun. A man may be *stounded* by a blow on the head.

2. To overcome with astonishment.

STOUR, *adj.* stiff; stout. It may be connected with *sturdy*, in etymon as well as in sense. But as, in our

use, it seems rarely, if ever, applied to any thing but strong vegetable growth; and as *stour*, substantive, in L. SC. signifies a *stake*, it may be safer to derive it with that, from Sui.-G. *stoer*, stipes. P. B. In Suffolk, indeed, it is applied to land which works stiff.

STRA, *s.* straw. O. E. CH. uses the pure Saxon word A. S. *stre*, culmus. W. C. and BR. *stree*.

STRADDLINS, *adv.* astride. In some counties it is *astraddle*; in L. SC. *stridens*.

STRAFT, *s.* a scolding bout; an angry strife of tongues. Sir Thomas Browne. Isl. *straffa*, iratus. Ray.

STRINKLE, *v.* to sprinkle. O. E.

STRIP, *v.* To strip a cow, is to milk her very clean, so as to leave no milk in the dug. In the dairy districts of Suffolk the greatest importance is attached to stripping the cows, as neglect of this infallibly produces disease. It is the same as the Norfolk *stroking*.

STRIPPINGS, *s.* the last milk drawn from a cow in milking; it is considered richer than the first milk. In Norfolk *strookings*.

STRIT, *s.* a street. O. E. P. G. *stret*. A. S. *strett*, platea.

STROCKINGS, *s. pl.* the last draining of the cow's milk, which can be got by *stroking* (stroking) the paps, after the full stream has ceased. W. C.

STROME, *v.* to walk with long strides. It may be figuratively connected with *stream*, from the rapidity of motion. And though *stream* is itself an A. S. word, another form from, another Gothic dia-

lect, may have been anciently co-existent. Isl. *straum*, flumen.

STRONG-DOCKED, *adj.* thick set and stoutly made about the loins and rump. It is a valuable qualification of labourers, male or female, employed in work requiring the exertion of the muscles of those parts of the body; "Betty is a good shearer (reaper)," said an old labourer in commendation of his daughter; "she is a fine *strong-docked* wench!"

STROOP, *s.* the gullet, or the wind-pipe. It seems indifferently applied to both. Lye mentions an A. s. verb *stroup*, to vociferate, which is certainly connected with our second sense. There is also Isl. *strapa*, guttur.

STROUT, *s.* a struggle; bustle; quarrel. O. E. The corresponding verb is in P. B.

STRUM, *s.* a battered prostitute. An abbreviation of *strumpet*, as brim, in a like application, is from brimstone.

STRY, *v.* to destroy; to waste. CH. and W. *destric*. SH. and T. *stroy*.

STRY, STRY-GOOD, *s.* a wasteful person; a bad manager or economist.

STRYANCE, *s.* wastefulness.

STRY-GOODLY, *adj.* wasteful; extravagant. Ex. "A *stry-goodly* fellow."

STULK-HOLE, *s.* V. PULK-HOLE.

STULP, *s.* a low post put down to mark a boundary, or to give support to something. Not a perverse and needless corruption of *stump*, as may be supposed, but from Sui.-G. *stolpe*, caudex.

STUNT, *s.* a check in growth. Ex. "That tree has got a *stunt*." Certainly the part. pass. of *stint*.

STUNT, STUNTY, *adj.* short; blunt; crusty; unmannerly. On a candid presumption that the offender knows no better how to behave himself, it may be *A. s. stunt*, fatuus.

STUPE, *s.* a foolish and dull person. *L. sc. JAM.* gives a Gothic derivation of it; but it may very likely be no more than fancifully formed from the adjective *stupid*.

STUTTLE, *s.* *V. STANSTICKLE.*

SUCKLING, *s.*

1. A honey-suckle. *Lonicera*, Lin.

2. The common purple clover, cultivated for the food of cattle. This is so generally called also *honey-suckle*, that a species of *hedysarum* very frequent in our gardens, and said to be cultivated in some parts of France, as clover is with us, is called French *honey-suckle*. In Suffolk, however, the red clover is never called *suckling*, but that term is generally used for the white or Dutch clover. In *L. sc. suchie*.

SUE, *v.* to issue in small quantities; to exude as a fluid from a vessel not sufficiently tight to confine it.

SUGAR-BARLEY, *s.* barley-sugar. It is not trifling to insert a variation apparently insignificant. Our East Anglian boys and girls are perfectly correct in calling it as they do. If the word be a corruption, as it most probably is, of *sucre brûlé* (burned sugar) it is an instance of the greater fidelity with which provincial usage retains imported words in

their proper forms, without attempting to improve them. *Sucre brulé* (sugar barley) is French, but *brulé sucre* (barley sugar) is not.

SUMMING, *s.* arithmetic in all its parts. We have *summing-schools*, *summing-books*, and *summing-masters*; and, solving any question in arithmetic, is doing a *sum*. JEN.

SUMP, *s.*

1. A dead weight.

2. A blockhead. L. sc. *sumph*.

Teut. *sompe*, palus.

SUMPY, *adj.* heavy; lumpish. It is often applied to bread not sufficiently baked.

SUNKET, *v.* to pamper; cocker; cram with delicacies.

SUNKET, *s.* a contemptuous application of a silly fellow.

SUNKETS, *s. pl.* dainty bits; nice feeding. More properly, perhaps, *sun-cates*, meaning treats for Sundays or holidays. *Sunday-cates*, L. sc.

SUP, *v.* Phr. "To *sup* sorrow," to taste affliction. It is a strong figurative expression. SH. Macbeth, "I have *supped* full of horrors." As to modern use, an old termagant was heard to say of her idle spendthrift husband, "I will make him *sup* sorrow by the ladleful!"

SUPERFLUOUS, *adj.* As there is no difference of meaning, it may seem trifling to notice what may pass for a mere vulgar mis-pronunciation. If this, why not many more? Because, there is at least a strong presumption of the antiquity of this, and not as a vulgarism, in a line of SH. Richard II.

"Their fruits of duty—superfluous branches."

Thus it stands in the old editions. The modern commentators and editors have thought proper to insert the word *all* before *superfluous*, to save the metre as they alledge. It is most likely that the contemporaries of the great poet, by pronouncing the word in their own way, found the metre good enough; and so do we.

SUSS! SUSS! An invitation to swine to come and eat their wash. BR. *soos*.

SUSS, *v.* to swill like a hog. "I'll *suss* your pluck," is a serious threat of an enraged vixen.

SUSS, *s.* an uncleanly mess, looking like hog-wash.

Possibly there may be some reference to the Latin word *sus*; but *V. Soss*.

SWACK, *v.* to throw with violence. Teut. *swacken*, vibrare. L. SC. *swak*.

SWACK, *s.* a hard blow or violent fall.

SWACK, *adv.* violently. Ex. "I fell down *swack*."

SWACKER, *s.* something huge; a bulky and robust person. Figuratively, a great lie. Ex. "That's a *swacker*,"

SWACKING, *adj.* huge; robust. There is also in L. SC. *swack*, an adjective, which means pliant, and is derived by JAM. from Teut. *swack*, flexilis. All these words, in both the modern dialects seem closely connected, and so indeed do the etyma proposed for them. After all, it is by no means unlikely that sound has had something to do in the formation of them; and if so, we may look to A. S. *swæg*, sonus.

SWAILING, *adj.* lounging from side to side in walking.

SWAKE, SWIKE, *s.* the handle of a pump. Both may be variations of SWIPE, *q. v.*

SWALE, *s.*

1. A low place.

2. Shade, in opposition to sunshine. Ex. "Let us walk, or sit, in the *swale*."

SWALE, *v.* to melt away. Ex. "The candle *swales*" by being placed in a current of air. W. C. BR.

SWANG, *v.* to swing with great force. Intens. "To *swang* the door" is a better phrase than to *slam* it, which is very common, and of which T. J. gives an unsatisfactory account. A. S. *swengan*, quassare.

SWANG-WAYS, *adv.* obliquely; aside.

SWANK, *v.* to sink in the middle.

SWAPER, SWAY, *s.* a switch.

SWARD-PORK, *s.* bacon cured in large flitches. It may be supposed to be thus called from its resemblance to the *sward* or turf pared off from the surface of the soil. But, in fact, it is the original Saxon word, and the other is the derivative. A. S. *swærd*, cutis porcina.

SWARM, *v.* to climb a tree, by clasping the trunk with arms and legs. In F. B. *swerve* occurs in this sense, and Dryden uses *swarve*. It is not easy to see how the words are connected. It may, possibly, however, be thus. The climber comes continually into contact with every part of the trunk, somewhat in the same manner in which a swarm of bees spreads itself over some chosen part of the tree, or as each bee adheres to each. A. S. *swearmian*, examinare. W. W. R. BR.

SWASH, *v.* to affect valour; to vapour or swagger.
SH. Romeo and Juliet, "remember your *swashing*
 blow." A *swaggerer* is called in many old come-
 dies a *swash-buckler*. But it is now out of use says
T. J. By no means.

SWASHY, *adj.* swaggering; blustering. *Sui.-G.* *swessa*,
jactare.

SWEETFUL, *adj.* delightful; charming; full of sweets.

SWELDERSOME, **SWELTERSOME**, *adj.* over-
 poweringly hot. From *sweltry*, said to be corrup-
 tions of sultry, but clearly derivable from *Isl.* *swelta*,
suffocare.

SWELKING, *adj.* sultry. *Ex.* "It is a *swelking* hot
 day." *Swelt* is the word in the *DICTIONARY* and our's is
 not noticed. We will, however, not allow it to be
 a corruption or variation of *swelt* (which by the
 way is not satisfactorily explained) while we can
 deduce it decidedly from *A. S.* *swilic*, *calidus*.

SWIDGE, *s.* a puddle or splash of water. It has a suf-
 ficiently conceivable connexion with *swig*, and so is
A. S.

SWIFT, *s.* an eft or newt, a common species of lizard.

SWIGGLE, *v.* to shake liquor in an enclosed vessel.

As a dimin. or frequent. of *swig* it would seem to
 participate little with it in meaning. If *swill* be
 taken in connexion with it, it may be, with only the
 transposition of a letter, a descendant of the same
 word from which that is deduced. *A. S.* *swilgan*,
ingurgitare.

SWINGEL, *s.* that part of a flail which swings. *A. S.*
swingl, *flagellum*; *swingelan*, *verberare*.

SWINGLE, *v.* to cut off the heads of weeds, without
 rooting up the plants.

SWIPE, *s.* the lever or handle of a pump. *o. z.* Genus machinæ quo hauritur aqua. Fest.

SWOB, *s.* a very awkward fellow, who seems fit only for coarse drudgery. It is our form of the sea term *swabber*, one who sweeps and cleans the deck with a *swab* or mop. Allowing for the interchange of the cognate letters *b* and *p*, it seems well described in *A. s.* *swapan*, scopis sordes auferre.

SWOB, *v.* Best explained in an *Ex.* "If you stir it, it will *swob* over," i. e. the liquor in a vessel so full that the slightest motion will throw it over the brim, leaving something to be *swabbed* or swept up. And this brings it under the former etymon.

SWOBBLE, *v.* to talk in a noisy bullying saucy manner, like a blackguard.

SWOB-FULL, *adj.* brimfull; so that an attempt to move the vessel would make its contents overflow.

SWOTTLING, *adj.* corpulent, greasy, and *sweaty*. *A. s.* *swatlin*, sudarium.

SWOUND, *v.* to swoon. *o. z.* "All in gore-blood, I *swounded* at the sight," says the Nurse in *SH.* *Romeo and Juliet*. No old woman of our own could have expressed herself in better *z. A.* Indeed, in the *Variorum* Edition used here, it is printed *sounded*. But that is the editor's ignorance, not the old woman's.

SWOUND, *s.* a swoon.

SWUDGE, *s.* a copious *swidge*, *q. v.* Intens.

SWULLOCKING, *adj.* A gross intens. of *swelking*, *q. v.*

SWURD, *s.* a sword. *CH.* and *w.* use *swerd*. Our's is the very original word itself, and surely could

not have been pronounced as *sword* is commonly pronounced now.

SYBBRIT, *s.* the banns of marriage. It is one of Sir Thomas Browne's words, and in full use at this day. It is explained by Hickes, *A. S.* *syb*, cognatio, and *byrht*, manifestus, *q. d.* a public announcing or proclamation of an intended affinity. This is unquestionably preferable to the unfounded notion, that the word is corrupted from "*Si quis sciverit*," the supposed first words of the publication of banns in the Romish Latin service. The absurdity of the Church of Rome is sufficiently glaring, in using a liturgy in an unknown tongue. But as the whole virtue and validity of the ceremony is summed up in the "*opus operatum*" of "hearing mass," she may say this is of no importance, as the people can hear the Latin as well as if it were their own language. But the absurdity would be more monstrous still, if she published in an unknown tongue notices, which the people were expected not only to hear, but to understand. It does not appear that this was ever done. *w. c.*

T.

TA, TE, TO, *art.* or *pron.* the, this, that, it. Whether these be three distinct words, or only different dialectical forms of the same word, it is convenient to take them together, for the easier explanation of the use we make of them. They are all Gothic, but not all Saxon words. *Te* appears to be the

A. s. article *the*; *ta* the Isl. *thad*; without its final letter; *to* the Mæso-G. *tho*; all deprived of their aspirates; to which privation, as has been shewn in another place, we have a considerable propensity.

Though we hear, and perhaps use, one or other of these words every day and even twenty times in a day, as synonymous with *it*, there may be difficulty in determining the orthography. No printed authority can be pleaded.

If we write "*te* freeze," or "*te* hail," (for "*it* freezes," or "*it* hails") we must caution our readers to give to the vowel the same sound which it has on the French monosyllables, *le*, *te*, *se*, &c.

Ta may, perhaps, be preferable. In the *Dictionarium Islandicum*, in the first volume of Hickes's *Thesaurus Vett. Lingg. Sepetrion*: we find such phrases as "*thad-friestur*," it freezes; "*thad heilar*," it hails. Now, in supposing *ta* to be another form of *thad*, reduced and changed in long process of time, we are somewhat confirmed by our occasional use of the ancient Isl. phrase itself; admitting, what can scarcely be doubted, that the Isl. *thad* and our *that* are the same. Ex. "*Ta* freeze? Yes, and *that* hail too." "Do it freeze? No, *that* don't freeze now, but *ta* wull at night."

For the third form, *to*, we have common and general authority in *to-day*, *to-night*, and *to-morrow*, for *this* day or night, and the morrow. In L. sc. the forms are "*the* day," instead of *to-day*, "*the* night," for *to-night*, and "*the* morn," for *to-morrow*, V. sc. N. pass. Our kindred language then, has, in these cases, retained the genuine A. s. article, and not

adopted the *Mæso-G.* as we have. The *Mæso-G. tho*, indeed, is said to be of the plural number, and the parent of our *those*. In length of time, and distant migration, it may have become singular also. It may be observed that we use it in one instance, which, if not peculiar to ourselves, is very common among us. We say *to-year* as familiarly as *to-day*. But we do not so designate the intermediate divisions of time. We have no such expressions as *to-month*, or *to-week*. We speak, however, very commonly of *to* thing and *tother* thing, *to* side and *tother* side. It may not be refining too much, if we consider the word *to-ther* as compounded of *to* and *there*, and equivalent to the very common vulgarism *that-there*. At any rate all these instances seem clearly to ascertain the present existence of the very ancient pronoun *to*.

Upon this principle may be proposed a correction of the common abbreviations '*tis*', '*twill*', '*twas*', &c. It is commonly supposed, that in these instances the pronoun *it* has suffered decapitation. Whereas, in fact, the elision is of the vowel *after* T. If so, we should write *t'is*, *t'will*, *t'was*, &c.

TAB, *s.*

1. The latchet of a shoe, fastened with a string or thong.
2. The end of a lace, commonly, and perhaps more properly called a *tag*.

TACK, *s.*

1. A trick at cards.
2. The handle of a sithe. Fr. *attacher*.

TAG, *s.* the rabble, *Rag* and *Bobtail* are generally of

the party ; and all three together make up a contemptuous designation of any set of rascals or ragamuffins. But *tag* by itself is sufficiently significant. So thought SH. Coriolanus, "before the *Tag* returns ;" i. e. the mob of citizens who were at that time gone somewhere else. It is a derivative from the same A. S. word with *tail*. In one instance the letter *g* is omitted, in the other *l*. When a Highland Chieftain appeared in state, attended by his clansmen, he was said "to have his *tail* on." We should say "he had his *tag* at his heels." A. S. *tægl*, cauda. N. G.

TAG, *v.* to follow closely, as it were an appendage.

Ex. "He is always *tagging* after her."

TAINT, *s.*

1. A very dirty slut. A most expressive word, as if her dirt were contagious, and it were unsafe to come near her.

2. A large protuberance at the top of a pollard tree.

TAKE, *v.*

Phr. 1. "To *take* on," to enlist, to *take* on himself the duties of a soldier ; to grieve. Ex. "She *took* on sorely for her husband's death ;" to ache, as a wound, a strain, or a bruise, *takes* on.

Phr. 2. To take to do ; to take to task ; to rate or reprove.

Phr. 3. To take a talking to. Pretty much like the second phr. but implying more of gravity and severity. Ex. "I wish, sir, (said a good woman who had a graceless whelp of a son) you would be so good as to send for my Tom into your study, and *take a talking* to him ; I hope ta would daunt him."

Of these three phrases, the first only, in its second sense, occurs in T. J. among the senses of the verb *take*. His examples from SH. prove it O. E. and may be confirmed by a great abundance in modern usage.

TAM, *pr. n.* the familiar abbreviation of the female name Thomasine; probably used to distinguish it with proper delicacy from the coarse masculine *Tom*.

TAN, *adv.* then. We very commonly pronounce it *than*, which is O. E. but it loses the aspirate in one phrase only, "now and *tan*," for "now and *then*." This odd pronunciation exists also in the West-JEN.

TANG, *s.* a strong flavour; generally, but not always, an unpleasant one.

TANKEROUS, *adv.* fretful; cross; querulous.

TANTABLET, *s.* a sort of tart, in which the fruit is not covered by a crust, but fancifully tricked and flourished, with slender shreds of pastry. *Tan-toblin* or *Tantablin* was anciently used in a very dirty sense. N. G. And it seems most likely that in our word, a ludicrous allusion to it was originally intended, though it is now certainly not understood.

TANTRUMS, *s. pl.* airs; whims; absurd freaks; high ropes. Though the senses do not seem exactly coincident, it is probably from Fr. *trantrons*. W. C. BR.

TAPPIS, *v.* to lie close to the ground. A sportsman's phrase. Ex. "It is so wet the birds cannot *tappis*." Fr. *tapis*.

TARDRY, *adj.* immodest ; loose ; whorish. Though it has no allusion to dress, it is perhaps a corruption of tawdry, which, in its turn, is a notorious corruption.

TASS, *s.* a dish or a dram ; as a *tass* of tea, or a *tass* of brandy. Fr. *tasse*. L. sc.

TATHE, *s.* manure dropped upon the land by the cattle depastured upon it. In L. sc. it seems to mean principally, if not exclusively, that of black cattle ; here that of sheep. Isl. *tad*, stercus.

TATHE, *v.* to manure land with fresh dung by turning cattle upon it.

TATTER, *v.* to stir actively and laboriously. It is commonly used in conjunction with *tow*, (pronounced like cow) which, if not equivalent, is closely connected in meaning, q. v. Ex. "He is a very pains-taking man ; always *towing* and *tattering* after his business." May it be from the Fr. *tater* ? That he is always feeling his way, trying to do the best he can ?

TAUGHT, TOUGHT, *adj.* tight. Ex. "Pull the rope *taught*." In L. sc. *tacht*. It is certainly of kin to *tach* or *tack*.

TAUNT, *v.* to teize ; to pester with silly questions ; importunate entreaties ; or any mode of minute vexation. Ex. "How this child does *taunt* me !" (pronounced like aunt). It conveys no sense of scoffing or insult ; and seems indeed to be a different word from *taunt* in the DICTT. and of different origin. May it not have been littered by the celebrated animal, which, on the authority of ancient legends, was the inseparable attendant of St. An-

thony wherever he went, and which still lives in a vulgar simile; "he follows me like a *tantony* pig."

TEA, *v.* to drink tea. As we, or any body else, would say, "my neighbour A is to dine with me to-morrow," we say he is to *tea* with me. It is pity we cannot, in this case as in the other, make a difference in form between the substantive and the verb.

TEAM, TEAMER, *v.* to pour out copiously. In SH. *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Hermia* speaks of "*beteaming* tears from her eyes." We use it also metaphorically, of a multitude pouring along like a stream. Of a thronged congregation issuing from a church, or a crowded audience from a theatre, it is said "how they came *teaming* out." Isl. *toema*, evacuate. L. SC. to empty. R. N. C. W. W. R.

TEEN, *s.* trouble; vexation. O. E. W. C. BR.

TEEN, *v.* to trouble; to vex. A. S. *tynan*, incitare.

TEENFUL, *adj.* troublesome; vexatious. O. E.

TENCH-WEED, *s.* a sort of pond-weed, having a slime or mucilage about it, supposed to be very agreeable to that fat and sleek fish. It is *Potamogeton natans*, Lin.

TEND, *v.*

1. To wait on company at table.

2. To take care of children, cattle, poultry.

TENDER, *s.* a waiter at a public table, or place of entertainment. The Author well remembers to have heard, many years ago, this word uttered with great force, and a true East Anglian accent, from a box in Vauxhall Gardens. On passing near it, not without some apprehension of being

recognised by his countryman, he was more fully convinced of his being so, by hearing him address a pretty blushing young woman of his party as "Peg Maa'r."

TERRIFY, *v.* to teize; irritate; annoy. A blister or a caustic is said to terrify a patient.

TEW, TOW, *v.* to pull, tear, and tumble about, as hay with the fork and rake, a weedy soil with plough and harrow. *w. w. r.* *Touse, tousle, tose,* and *taw*, *L. sc.* are all kindred words. The general and original idea seems to be that of tearing flax into filaments, and that our word is therefore deducible from *A. s. tow*, *stupa*. But these words also signify figuratively to work hard, and in this sense Mr. Brockett gives *tue* as the proper spelling, and derives it ludicrously enough, from *Fr. se tuer*.

THACK, *v.* to thatch. These are different forms of the same word, and our's is nearer to *A. s. thace*, *stipula*, or *thecan*, *tegere*. *L. sc. BR.*

THACK, *s.* any material for thatching; as straw, sedge, reeds, &c. *PR. PA. CH. R. N. C.*

THACKER, THACKSTER, *s.* a thatcher.

THAPES, *s. pl.* Sir Thomas Browne, *V. FAPES*.

THAT'NS, *adv.* in that manner.

THE, *pron.* Used as an inflexion of *it*. *Ex.* "The child will cut *theself*, if you do not take away the knife." *O. E.* "*The own accord*." Hollingshed.

THEAD, *s.* the tall wicker strainer placed in the mash-tub over the hole in the bottom, that the wort may run off clear. It is perhaps more commonly called a *fead*. No unusual change, *A. s. thydan*, *perforare*,

THEM, *pron.* those. Ex. "Whose are *them* books? often, *them-there*.

THEN, *s.* that time. In the Greek language it is common enough to convert adverbs of time into substantives, by prefixing to them the neuter article as *το νυν*. It may possibly have descended regularly to us. Ex. "I shall have done it by *then*."

THERE AND THERE-AWAYS, *Phr.* thereabouts.

Ex. "Is the horse worth twenty pounds? *There and there-aways*." In point of fact, the adverb *there* in many compound words, such as *thereat*, *therein*, &c. is used as a substantive, and attended by a preposition; with this difference, that the preposition follows instead of preceding it. The same observation which has been made upon *then*, will therefore be applicable to it.

THE TONE, THE TOTHER, *s.* the one and the other. Certainly the article is involved in *tone* and *tother*, and the repetition of it is a sufficiently awkward tautology; but it is O. E. T. W. N. G.

THICK, *adj.* intimate. PE. BR.

THINDER, *adv.* V. YINDER. *Th* and *y* have in many instances been confounded, not from any cognatio literarum, but from some similarity of A. S. characters. This is the origin of the common abbreviations, *ye*, *yt*, &c.

THIS'NS, THUS'NS, THAT'NS, *adv.* In this or that manner. PE. WC. BR.

THITE, *adv.*

1. Tight; as applied to the fitting of apparel.
2. Compact; not leaky; water-tight.

THOKISH, *adj.* slothful; sluggish. Sir THOS. Browne.

This is Ray's interpretation, and may be right for ought we know.

THOLE-PINS, *s. pl.* the pins on the gunwale of a boat at the end of the rower's bench, between which the oars are confined. *A. s. thol*, scalmus.

THOUGHT, *s.* a very minute difference in degree. A thing is said to be a *thought* too wide, too long, too heavy, &c. It is *O. E. sh.* Troilus and Cressida, "If it were a *thought* browner," &c. applied to hair. *sc. n.*

THOUGHTS, *s. pl.* opinion. *Ex.* "It is my *thoughts* that," &c. Ungrammatical but ancient. *FE.*

THREADEN, *adj.* made of thread. Within our memory "*threaden stockings*" were an article of Sunday apparel for village servants and apprentices. Since the great increase and improvement of our cotton manufacture, they are no longer to be seen, probably no where to be had. Certainly not employing, as once they did, our "knitters in the sun." *sh.* Henry V. "*threaden sails.*"

THREE-RELEET, *s.* *V. RELEET.*

THROAT-LATCH, *s.*

1. The narrow thong of the bridle which passes under a horse's throat.
2. The strings of a hat, cap, &c. fastened under the chin.

THRUM, *v.* to pur, as a cat.

THUMB-SNACK, *s.* a simple mode of fastening a door. *V. SNACK.*

THUMP, *s.* a sort of hard cheese. *V. BANG.*

THURCK, *adj.* dark. So say Hickes and Ray, and

so it may have been for ought we can say to the contrary. Sir Thomas Browne.

TICK, *s.* a very gentle touch, by way of hint, or as a token of endearment. *BR. tig.* *Fr. tic.*

TICK, *v.* to toy. Indeed the two are often used together, and seem to defy discrimination; two fond sweethearts are sometimes seen "*ticking* and *toying*."

TIDDLING, **TITTLING**, *adj.* topmost. "The *tid-dling* top" means the very highest point; the same as *tip-top*. The meaning may perhaps be, that a thing so placed must stand *ticklish* or *tittlish*.

TIDY, *s.* a light outer covering worn by children, to keep their clothes from dirt and grease.

TIFF, *s.* a pet; slight anger. *Ex.* "She was in a *tiff*."

TIFFLE, *v.* to be mightily busy about little or nothing.

CH. niffle. *O. Fr. tiffer.*

TIGHT, *adj.* prompt; active; alert. "A *tight* fellow!"

TIGHTLY, *adv.* promptly; actively; alertly. *SH.*

Merry Wives of Windsor, "Bear thou these letters *tightly*." Mr. Steevens would fain read *rightly*. He would not have proposed so vapid a conjecture, had he been acquainted with our familiar use of the word.

TIGHT-LOCK, *s.* any species of coarse sedge growing in marsh ditches. So called, from its being used to bind the sheaves of beans or oats, growing very luxuriantly on such land.

TILD, *v.* to incline. It is particularly applied to a cask, so raised at one end, as that the liquor, when it is become low, may flow out at the other. We

also say of any thing which stands inclined, and in apparent danger of falling, that it "stands *tilding*," or "upon the *tilt*." In T. J. both verb and substantive are *tilt*. So, indeed, they very commonly are with us. But there is fair analogy for the difference in spelling.

TILESHERD, *s.* a fragment of a tile, as potsherd of a pot. q. d. *shred*.

TILLER, *s.* the handle of a spade.

TILLER, *v.* to throw out many stems from the same root.

TING, *v.* to ring a small bell. "To *ting* bees," is to collect them together, when they swarm, by the ancient music of the warming-pan and the key of the kitchen-door; the melody of which is still believed to be very efficacious.

TING-TANG, *s.* a small and shrill bell, to summon the family to dinner, the congregation to prayers, &c. Fr. *tantan*. BR.

TIP, *s.* a smart but light blow. The verb *tip* in the correspondent sense is in T. J. but not the substantive.

TIPE, *v.* to kick up, or fall headlong, from being top-heavy. The word seems connected with *top* through *tip*.

TISSICK, *s.* a tickling faint cough; called also a "*tis-sicky* cough." L. sc. *teasick*. All from Gr. *φθισις*, though certainly used without any such terrific association, and even on the slightest occasions.

TITTER, *v.* to ride on each end of a balanced plank. Otherwise "*titter-cum-totter*." A common sport

among children, sometimes ending in broken heads or limbs.

TITTER, *s.* a pimple.

TITTER-WORM, *s.* a cutaneous efflorescence, a series or confluence of minute pimples. What is thus called is not "scurf or scab," as *tetter* is described in T. J. nor is it so troublesome and obstinate an affection as the *ring-worm*. It is a miliary eruption, in form rather vermicular than annular; often cured by a dose or two of cooling physic, or by the mere application of a soft and bland unguent.

TITTIES, **TITS**, *s. pl.* teats. The very Saxon word.

A. S. *titte*, mamma.

TITTLE, *v.* to tickle. A. S. *kittelan*, titillare.

TITTLE-MY-FANCY, *s.* pansies. *Viola tricolor*, Lin.

TITTY, **TITTY-TOTTY**, *adj.* very small; tiny; sometimes pleonastically, *little-titty*. It is from *tit*, signifying almost any thing very small, perhaps *birds* in particular. Of Teut. or A. S. origin.

TIVER. *s.* a composition of which tar is the principal ingredient, to colour and preserve boards exposed to the air. A. S. *teafor*, sinopsis.

TOAD'S-CAP, *s.* a fungus. Minsh. gives a name of a fungus from one of the Northern languages, which he translates "*bufonis pileolus*." Toad-stool is the word in the **DICTT.** and in general use. The two words are respectively and equally well adapted to different species of fungi. The broad, stout, low, agarics and boleti might serve the toad for a safe and suitable seat. The lighter agarics, clathri, pezizæ, &c. which he would crush in a moment by attempting to sit upon them, might serve him for

a cap, were not many of them too fine in texture, too elegant in form, and too beautiful in colour to be suitable to his ugly figure. Most, however, if not all are poisonous, and in that respect they would accord better.

TOD, *s.* the head of a pollard tree. An ivy-*todd* is *o. e.* and used by Spenser, and why not use the simple as well as the compound word, in case it should happen not to be overgrown with ivy?

TOD, *v.* to amount to a *tod*, or 28 pounds of wool. A passage in *SH.* Winter Tale has much embarrassed his commentators. "Every eleven wether *tods*." No matter for the flaws in grammar. It is our phrase. Norfolk wethers do not often *tod* so well.

TO-DO, *s.* a stir; a bustle. Ex. "He made a great *to-do* about it." And why not just as good as the French substantive *affaire* (*à faire*), with which it literally and exactly tallies; which word, however, we have adopted, though it appears clearly we did not want it. JEN.

TOGETHER, *s.* seemingly, but not really, an adverb converted to a noun, and used in familiarly addressing a number of persons collectively. Ex. "Well, *together*, how are ye all?" It is, in fact, another instance of the identity of *to* and the article *the*. The same word in *L. sc.* is *thegether*, which Dr. Jamieson calls a corruption of the English *together*. If what has been said upon this subject (*v. Ta*, &c.) be admitted, we shall not think there is any corruption in the case. *The gether* is *the gathering*, the company assembled; and so is *together*.

TOLC, *v.* to tempt; coax, &c. It must be the same word with *tole*, which Johnson calls barbarous and provincial, though he quotes Locke for it. It is, however, sufficiently proved in T. J. and in N. G. Our use of it is very confined. Ex. "Good sauce *tolcs* down the meat." Certainly our word is provincial; at least no better authority appears for the change of the final letter. In Suffolk it is "*tole*."

TOLERATE, *v.* to domineer; to tyrannize. Whence can this strange perversion have arisen?

TOMMY, *s.* a small spade to excavate the narrow bottoms of under-drains.

TOM POKER, *pr. n.* The great bugbear and terror of naughty children, who inhabits dark closets, holes under the stairs, unoccupied cock-lofts, false-rooms, &c. Such places are often called from him *poker-holes*. His name is from Sui.-G. *tomte-poeke*, *q. d.* the *house-puck*, the domestic goblin.

TOM-TIT, *s.* a very common name of the pretty bird otherwise called the *titmouse*. But by us it is applied to the wren. And though the male bird is often called a bob-wren, and the female, a kitty or jenny-wren, *tom-tit* seems to belong indiscriminately to both sexes. In Suffolk it is applied to the tit-mouse only.

TOM-TOMMY, double *s.* a plough with a double breast, to clear out furrows.

TONGUE, *s.* a small sole, from its shape. A distinction used by our fishermen.

TOON, *adv.* too.

TOOTHsome, *adj.* palatable; on which the teeth may be pleasantly exercised. L. sc.

TOP-LATCH, *s.* the thong by which the sales of the horse-collar are tied together.

TOPPINGS, *s. pl.* the second skimming of milk; the first being properly called cream.

TOPPLE, *v.* to tumble; to bring the head to the ground and throw the heels over. O. E. SH. Macbeth, "Castles *topple* on their warder's heads." Beasts and sheep are said to "*topple* over," if they sell, after they are fattened, for double the price they cost.

TOPPLER, *s.* a tumbler, who, among various antic postures, throws his heels over his head.

TOSH, a tusk; a long and somewhat curved tooth. It is but another form of the commoner word; *tusk, tush, tosh.* BR.

TOSHNAIL, *s.* a nail driven in aslant or diagonally, so as to have the stronger hold; like the teeth of some animals. It is also used as a verb.

TOTTY, TOTTY-HEADED, *adj.* dizzy. Particularly from the effect of too much drink. CH.

TOUGHT, *v.* to set fast; to *tighten* so that it cannot be easily unravelled. Ex. "This skein is *toughted*."

TOUGHY, *s.* a coarse sweetmeat, composed of brown sugar and treacle; named from its toughness, though perhaps it should be spelled *tuffy*, and considered as another form of *taffy*, described in W. C. as compounded of the same ingredients, and derived from Fr. *taffiat*, a sweetmeat made of sugar and brandy.

TOW, *s.* necessary tools or apparatus for any purpose (pronounced like *cow*). A. S. *tawa*, instrumenta.

TO-WARD, *prep.* The substantive is to be inserted between the two syllables of the preposition. Ex. "*To London-ward*," i. e. toward London. O. E. P. L.

TOWLY, *s.* a towel. Whichsoever of the derivations proposed by Johnson be taken, there is some sound of *i*, however faint, after the *l*. We therefore come nearer to it by adding *y*. Fr. *touaille*. Ital. *touaglia*.

TRADE, *s.* line of conduct; course of action; practice; habit; custom. Ex. "If this is to be the *trade*," &c. JAM. has *trad*, course of travelling or sailing. It is O. E. SH. Hamlet, "Have you any further *trade* with us," i. e. any thing farther to say or do. It is figuratively. A. S. *trade*, callis.

TRAFFIC, *s.* passing and repassing on a high way. Ex. "There is a great deal of *traffic* on this road." CH. uses *trade* in the same sense. So does SH. Richard II. "A way of common *trade* where feet may hourly trample." It is obvious that *trade* has connexion with *tread*. The supposed synonym *traffic* breaks that connexion, and if not without meaning in such an application, has at most a remotely figurative one. And especially if the Fr. *traffiquer*, from which certainly we have our *traffic*, comes, as the DICTT. tell us it does, from the Lat. *transfretare*.

TRAFFIC, *v.* to frequent. Ex. "The new road will soon be *trafficked*."

TRAFFING-DISH, *s.* a bowl through which milk is strained into the tray in which it is set to raise cream.

TRAPE, *v.* to trail; to be drawn along. Ex. "Her

gown *trapes* after her on the floor." There is sufficient authority for the substantive *trapes* for a slattern. Our verb is immediately connected with that substantive, and both as certainly with the opprobrious word *drab*, *V. DRABBLE*. Yet we are so far from meaning any thing offensive, that we should apply the same term to the most stately duchess, could we see her drawing the long train of her gorgeous robe down the grand staircase at St. James's.

TRATTLES, *s. pl.* the small pellets of the dung of sheep, hares, rabbits, &c.

TRAVERSE, *s.* a smith's shoeing shed.

TRENCHER-MAN, *s.* "A good *trencher-man*" means a hearty feeder. Beatrice applies it to Benedict, in *SH.* Much ado about Nothing. We have a more facetious phrase of "playing a good tune upon a *trencher*." The phrases remain, though the wooden platter, called a *trencher*, anciently in universal use, and even its successor of pewter, is almost totally superseded at table by the cheapness and abundance of earthenware. *Trenchers* are scarcely used but for the cook to chop or mince upon. Perhaps in some few kitchens of farm houses, in which ancient simplicity and frugality are still maintained. One old farmer, lately deceased, would not, to the last, eat his beef and dumplin from any thing but a *trencher*; but he is likely to be the last. No such thing is now to be seen in a cottage.

TRICKLE, TRITTLE, *v.* to bowl. Ex. "*Trickle* me an orange across the table." "The crowd was so thick, one might have *trickled* balls on their

heads." It is a dimin. of *truckle*, or even the same word with change of vowels. Of the verb *truckle*, T. J. gives only the common sense of abject submission, and deduces it from *truckle-bed*, which is exactly vice versa. There certainly was an O.E. verb *truckle*, synonymous with *trundle*, and from it was formed *truckle-bed*. We have still the substantive *truck*, to which the verb belongs, signifying a carriage on low wheels, for conveyance of heavy burdens. The words certainly come, through some Gothic medium not now, perhaps, easily to be found, from Gr *τροχος*.

TRICKLE-BED, *s.* a truckle-bed; a low bed on small wheels or castors, trundled under another in the day time, and drawn out at night for a servant or other inferior person to sleep on. It is, perhaps, not strictly correct to insert this substantive as a word in actual use. Probably there may be no such piece of furniture now in use. Where an attendant in the bed-chamber is wanted, it is usual to have a smaller bed set up in some spare corner of the room. An allusion to it, however, somewhat in the form of an adjective, survives the use. Of a servile sycophant, or hanger-on, it is sometimes said that he is "a poor mean *trickle-bed* fellow!"

TRICKY, *adj.*

1. Mischievous.
2. Spitefully ill-humoured.
3. Artful. BR.

TRICULATE, *v.* to adorn. It seems to be fancifully formed from the phrase "to *trick out*." It is used

by masons, for putting the last hand to what they mean to be smart and shewy.

TRIG, *v.* to trot gently; or trip as a child does after its nurse. "They *trigged* off together."

TRIP, *s.* a small cheese, made in summer, to be eaten in its soft and curdy state, or it soon becomes dry, tough, and uneatable.

TRIP-SKIN, *s.*

1. A piece of leather, worn on the right hand side of the petticoat, by spinners with the rock, on which the spindle plays, and the yarn is pressed by the hand of the spinner.
2. The skinny part of roasted meat which before the whole can be dressed, becomes tough and dry, like a *trip* overkept, or the leather used by the old woman.

TROANT, *s.* (monosyllable) a truant.

TROANT, *v.* to play truant.

TROLLIBAGS, *s.* the intestines.

TROUBLE, *s.* a woman's travail. Ex. "She is now in her *trouble*." Perhaps a corruption.

TROUNCE, *v.* to beat with heavy blows.

TROUNCE-HOLE, *s.* a game at ball, very like trap-ball, but more simple; a hole in the ground serving for the trap, a flat piece of bone for the trigger, and a cudgel for the bat.

TRUE-PENNY, *s.* Generally, "Old True-penny," as it occurs in SH. Hamlet, where the application of it to the ghost is unseemly and incongruous, yet it has attracted no notice from any commentator. Its present meaning is, hearty old fellow; staunch and trusty; true to his purpose or pledge.

TRUNCH, TRUNCH-MADE, *adj.* short and thick; compact and squab in figure.

TRUNK-WAY, *s.* a water course through an arch of masonry, turned over a ditch before a gate. The name arose, no doubt, from the trunks of trees used for the same purpose in ancient and simpler times, and even now in the few woody parts of both counties.

TRUTHY, *adj.* faithful in plighted *troth*; as a husband or a lover. Sometimes ironically applied to a notorious liar.

TRY, *v.* to melt down by fire, for the purpose of purifying; usually applied to melting the suet of hogs, or other animals, to get rid of the skinny and impure parts; the purified lard is then kept for domestic use. This meaning of the word *try* appears a very ancient one, and it is commonly used in this sense by the translators of the Bible. Ex. "As silver is *tried* in a furnace of earth," and "as silver is *tried* and purified seven times in the fire." Psal. xii. v. 6.

TUMBLER, *s.* a tumbril. Our name is exactly descriptive. A *tumbler* is made open behind, and occasionally closed by a tail-board, on which "liberal clowns bestow a grosser name." On the removal of this, and a strong wooden bar before, which, passing through two iron hold-fasts, secures the body to the shafts, the carriage *tumbles* backward and discharges the load. One would willingly believe this to be the proper name, and that *tumbrel* was formed from it by metathesis. But it is not possible to reject Johnson's derivation

of *tumbrel* from O. Fr. *tumerel*. Yet, after all, we are not obliged to identify the *tumbrel* with the *tumbler*; and it may not be possible to come at a definition of either. We are therefore at liberty to contend for the originality as well as the propriety of our own word. L. SC. a *light* cart.

TUNDER, *s.* tinder. O. E. JAM. has *tounder*.

TUNMERE, *s.* the line of procession in parochial perambulations. A. S. *tune*, territorium, and *mæra*, finis.

TUNNEL, *s.* a funnel, O. E. and not obsolete, but in constant use, and we are able and ready to defend it. It is in fact, much better than *funnel*, which has been substituted for it. If, while we had this Saxon word, to signify almost any thing through which fluids might be poured, our language wanted a derivative from the Lat. *fundus*, it should have been *fundle*, and not *funnel*. A. S. *tænel*, canistrum.

TUP, *s.* a ram. It is said by Johnson to be yet in use in Staffordshire, and in some other counties. It probably is so now in all. It is even generally used by all modern agricultural writers; and to have become, if it was not before, a general English word, and therefore to have slight claim to admission here. It has, however, always been in use here, and is certainly O. E. It occurs in a dirty passage in SH. Othello.

TURF, *s.* peat; fuel dug from boggy ground. The DICT. interpret the word as meaning only the surface of the ground pared off. These we call flags, and they are cut from dry heaths, as well as from

bogs. The substance of the soil below these is turf. Every separate portion of it is a *turf*, and the pl. n. is *turves*, which is used by CH. JEN.

TUSSLE, *s.* a struggle.

TUSSLE, *v.* to strive.

TUSSOCK, *s.* a **HASSOCK**, *q. v.* a thick tuft of coarse grass in pastures, or of rank growth in corn.

TUTTER, *s.* trouble. "What a *tutter* he makes of it!"

TWANK, *v.*

1. To let fall the carpenter's chalk-line which makes a smart slap upon the board.

2. To give a smart slap with the flat of the hand, on the breech, or other fleshy part.

TWIDDLE, *s.* a small pimple.

TWIDDLE, *v.* to be busy and bestow seeming pains about the merest trifles. Ex. "What are you *twiddling* about there?"

TWIG, *v.*

1. To give such a slight, but smart, correction as may be inflicted with a twig.

2. Figuratively, to give somewhat sharp, but not angry and severe reproof.

TWIL, *prep.* until. It is a word compounded of the prep. *to* and the subst. *while*; and means "to the time." This is the opinion of H. T. Dr. Jamieson says it is too fanciful. It really does not seem so. But let him, then, if it please him better, take it as a mere variation of the L. sc. *quhill*, by the very usual substitution of *t* for *qu*.

TWILL, *s.* a sort of coarse linen cloth, of which loose frocks, trousers, &c. are made for working men.

Finer manufactures, even silks, are indeed said to be *twilled*, which means a particular mode of crossing the woof and warp, so that the texture appears ridgy, which is the case also in our particular application of the word.

TWILT, *s.* a quilt; here as well as in the North. **T. J.**

TWILT, *v.*

1. To quilt. **BR.**

2. To beat. An expressive word, inasmuch as it is implied that weals are left, like the stripes or ridges in quilted work.

TWINNY, *v.* to rob a cask before it is broached. A thievish wench *twinnies* her dame's cask of mead or made wine. **CH.** has *twinne*, to separate from. The **A. s.** verb *twinan* signifies duplicare. It is doubtless connected with *twy*, which, in compound **A. s.** words, signifies two-fold. But our word, by the easy substitution of *t* for *c*, may perhaps be thought to come better from **A. s.** *cwinan*, *tabescere*. The liquor gradually wastes away by successive applications of the reed, straw, or tobacco-pipe.

TWIT, *s.* a fit of hasty ill-humour; snappishness.

TWITCH-GRASS, *s.* couch-grass *Triticum repens*, **Lin.** The transition is easy. Couch, cwich, twitch. It is often called *twitch*, without the word grass.

TWITTY, *adj.* cross; snappish. The verb *twit* (to sneer or reproach) is inserted in **T. J.** and certainly these two words belong to it. A puzzling variety of Gothic derivations is proposed. The **A. s.** one *edwitan* might suffice. But perhaps another would do better, which is given as the etymon of twitch. **A. s.** *twiccian*, *vellicare*.

TWIZZLE, *v.* to turn a thing round and round between the fingers, quickly and repeatedly. It is sometimes used in a neuter sense. "Ex. "He came *twizzling* down."

TYE, *s.* an extensive common pasture. There are several *tyes* a few miles South of the central part of Suffolk; but in no other part of East Anglia. There are also some on the Northern border of Essex. No researches have hitherto ascertained the derivation of the word.

TYKE, *s.* a cur, or any vile and worthless dog. It is *o. e.* and used by *SH.* but not given as either species or variety in *Caius de Canibus*. We do not use it in its literal sense, but figuratively, as a term of contempt. *W. C. BR.*

V. U.

VALOUR, *s.*

1. Value. It is *o. e.* with the weighty authority of the great Sir Thomas More. *Lat. valor.*
2. Amount. Ex. "It might be about the *valour* of three hours, two miles, four acres, &c." *Value* in this sense is in *w. c.*

VALOUR, *v.* to esteem. For this verb we have no such authority as for the substantive, nor any authority at all but our own.

VAST, *s.* a very great quantity. "We had a *vast* of rain in the last quarter of the year 1824."

VESSEL, *s.*

1. Half a quarter of a sheet of writing paper. It is in *r. j.* but being quoted from our great East Anglian lexicographer Lemon, is apparently our own.

Pegge, however, has it. A very good derivation is proposed. Lat. *fasciola*, a little strip.

2. A wooden cask to hold fermented liquors. Certainly, a great number and variety of the things employed for domestic use, come under the denomination of *vessel*; but with us casks are vessels *kar' efoxhyn*, and nothing else is ever so called.

VINE, *s.* any trailing fruit-bearing plant, which must spread itself on the ground if it be not supported, as cucumbers, melons, strawberries, &c.

VIPER'S DANCE, *s.* St. Vitus's dance. It is not altogether impossible that there is in this word some obscure allusion to the reported effect of the bite of the tarantula; which, as we have happily none of those noxious reptiles in this Country, has been transferred to the viper.

UNCALLOW, *v.* to remove the upper stratum of earth in order to come to the bed of gravel, chalk, or other substance below it. *V. CALLOW.*

UNDENIABLE, *adj.* unexceptionable; with which no fault can be found.

UNDER-BUTTER, *s.* the butter made of the second skimmings of milk in the dairy districts of Suffolk. It is kept for domestic purposes, or sold to near neighbours for prompt use; never put up in firkins and sent to market. Though good for present consumption it will keep but a short time.

UNDER-DECK, *s.* the low broad tub into which the wort runs from the mash tub.

UNDER-GRUB, *v.* to undermine.

UNDER-GRUP, *s.* an under-drain; a concealed water course in wet soils.

UNDER-NEAN, *prep.* underneath; but certainly a

word of more precise meaning. It expresses, not only that one thing is below another, but that at the same time, it is near it. A. S. *ainder*, sub; and *nean*, prope.

UNEATHILY, *adj.* unwieldy; hard to be put into motion. The word ought certainly to be *uneath*, or at most *uneathy*; but, by adding the final syllable *ly*, we give it the form of an adverb, though we use it as an adjective; applying it to huge overgrown corpulent persons, to whom motion is difficult and uneasy. Ex. "A great huge *uneathily* fellow!"

UNFACEABLE, *adj.* unreasonable; indefensible. A proposal, or an assertion, which a man could not have the face boldly to make or to maintain, is said to be an *unfaceable* one.

UNGAIN, *adj.* inconvenient; intractable. Ex. "The land lies *ungain* for me." "My horse is very *ungain*." These senses are not in the DICTT. A. S. *ongean*, contra.

UNSENSED, *part.*

1. Stunned; as by a blow or fall.
2. Stupified; as by excess of drink.
3. Insane.

UNTIDY, *adj.* unclean; sluttish. One of the authorities in T. J. will bear this meaning; but is only interpreted untimely.

VOKE, *v.* to make an effort to vomit. *V. BOKE.*

UP-A-DAY, *v.* A fondling expression of a nurse to a child, when she takes it up in her arms, or lifts it over some obstacle. The author is informed by a friend, that he heard it used on the same occasions, by nurse-maids in Normandy. How it is spelled he of course could not say. It is spelled here only

by the ear. In Fr. by the same rule it would probably be *upadé*. Be that as it may, the coincidence is curious, and the word, no doubt, comes, in either case, from A. S. *upadan*, tollere.

UPLAND, *s.* higher and drier ground, as contradistinguished from fen-land. A. S. *upland*, id.

UPLANDER, UPLANDMAN, *s.* an inhabitant of the uplands. A. S. *uplandisc-man*, id.

UPPER-HAND, *v.* to apprehend. This irregularity is easily accounted for, and so as to give it quite sufficient meaning. The constable who has the thief in custody assuredly has the *upper-hand* of him, and so think those who use the word.

UPPERLET, *s.* a shoulder-knot. It may very probably be considered as a mere corruption of the Fr. *epaulet*, but ought not to be so degraded while so much is to be pleaded for the propriety of it. A gallant officer in a corps of village yeomanry, during the time of the French Revolution and threatened invasion, complained of the heavy expense of his uniform, and particularly of his *upperlet*, pointing to the ornament on his shoulder, and observing that that dab of lace cost him more money than a whole suit of good broad-cloth! At the same time he expressed his wonder, that the name should have been so misapplied, as there was something above it (meaning his helmet) which might more properly have been so called as being uppermost. This may be, but still propriety enough remains to make it a very fair English word; new perhaps, but happily hit off, and of very "good admission."

UPPISH, *adj.* proud without pretence to be so; as-

- suming unbecoming airs. If it wants any explanatory derivation, which Dr. Jamieson seems to think it does, we cannot do better than take his. Sui.-G. *yping*, *superbus*.

UPSTART, *s.* the deep impression of a horse's foot in a clayey soil, soon filled up with water, which, when another horse happens to tread in the very same place, starts upwards and plentifully bespat- ters the rider. These *up-starts*, or *start-ups*, as they were otherwise called, were a great nuisance some forty years ago in the rich district called High Suffolk, in which it was then almost impossible to travel otherwise than on horseback ; though now it is easily and commodiously passable by carriages of every kind, on good roads.

URGEFUL, *adj.* urgent ; importunate ; teasing.

W.

WAD, *s.* woad. A plant of great use in dyeing. By mixture, it contributes to produce many colours. What it yields of itself is blue. "As blue as wad" is a common comparison. We faithfully retain the original word. A. S. *wad*, glastum. L. SC. P. G. BR.

WADMAL, *s.* a very coarse and thick kind of wool- len manufacture. In the very interesting accounts we have had of Iceland of late years, it appears to be the principal manufacture of the country, and the most general cloathing of the people. What is thus called by us is only the winter clothing of rustics. Isl. *vadmaal*, pannus rusticus.

WAGE, *v.* to endeavour to prevail on one to do some-

thing difficult or disagreeable, by offering him a bet or a bribe. Ex. "I would not do it, if you were to *wage* me to it."

WASTE, WASTER, *v.* to bang or cudgel. Stowe, and after him Strutt, call the exercise of cudgel-play "*waster* and buckler." The *waster* is the offensive weapon. Hence our word.

WALK, *s.* an uninclosed corn-field.

WALKS, *s. pl.* A large extent of country so circumstanced is called "*The Walks*." The name is, no doubt, from the ancient manorial right of sheep-walk over such lands, during a considerable part of the year. As this right is extinguished in all Inclosure Acts, the name is in danger of perishing.

WALLIS, *s.* the withers of a horse.

WALLOP, *v.*

1. To move as fast as possible, but not without much effort and agitation. JAM. proposes to derive it from Sui.-G. *wapen*. But the Fr. *galopper* is certainly more likely. *W* for *G* is a very common change. The gallop of a cow or a cart-horse is a good specimen of *wallopping*. BR.
2. To wrap up anything in a hasty and clumsy manner. This must needs be a deplorable corruption of *envelop*.

WALTER, WOLTER, *v.*

1. To roll and twist about on the ground; as corn laid by the wind and rain; or as one who is rolled in the mire. It is meant to be something stronger than *welter*. PR. PA. B. A.
2. To cause extreme fatigue, whether by the above-mentioned discipline, or any other exhausting ex-

ertion. Ex. "I am right-on *woltered* out, by my day's work," long walk, or whatever else.

WAN, *s.* a long rod to wave into a wattled hedge.

WANGLE, WANKY, *adj.* weak; pliant; sometimes *winky-wanky*. In L. SC. *wanhull* is unstable. The same derivation may serve us. A. S. *wancol*, inconstans. R. N. C. BR. in the sense of uncertain.

WANZE, *v.* to waste; pine; wither. A. S. *wano*, *deficiens*.

WAP, *v.*

1. To wrap. Sui.-G. *wipa*, *involvere*.

2. To beat; with some figurative allusion to the former sense.

WAPPER-JAWS, *s. pl.* a wry mouth; a warped jaw.

WAPPET, *s.* a yelping cur. V. YAP.

WAPS, WAPSY, *s.* a wasp. The original word. A. S. *wæps*, *vespa*.

WARBLE, WARBLET, *s.* a hard swelling in the hides of cows and other cattle, caused by the growth of a larva or large maggot, from the egg of a fly deposited there. A. S. *wear*, *callus*.

WARD, *s.* callosity of the skin; on the hands, from hard labour, and on the feet from much walking. With the slight addition of the letter *d*, it may come from the same etymon as the last word.

WARD, *v.* Connected with the substantive. The hands of hard working people are said to be *warded*. Perhaps, at first it was *war'd*; and so came the *d* into both the words.

WASSAIL-SINGERS, *s. pl.* V. in APPENDIX.

WATER-BEWITCHED, *s.* weak tea, coffee, punch, &c. of which the flavour is so nearly imperceptible,

that it may be considered as merely spoiling the water.

WATER-DOGS, *s. pl.* small clouds of irregular but roundish form, and of a darker colour, floating below the dense mass of cloudiness in rainy seasons, supposed to indicate the near approach of more rain.

WATER-RANNY, *s.* the short-tailed field mouse.

WATER-SLAIN, *adj.* overcome with superabundance of water. In *L. sc.* it is applied to a moss; by us to fermented or infused beverages. The tea or the beer is *water-slain* if it be very deficient in strength. In Suffolk undrained wet land is said to be *water-slain*.

WATER-SPRINGE, *s.* a copious flow or springing of saliva, which often precedes and attends nausea.

WATER-SPRIZZLE, *s.* a disease in goslings and ducklings, of which no intelligible account can be obtained from those, who are most conversant with the diseases of those animals.

WATER-TAKING, *s.* a pond from which water is taken, in default of a pump for the use of the house.

WATER-WHELP, *s.* a dumplin kneaded without either yeast or eggs, and of course very hard and heavy.

WEARIFUL, *adj.* tiresome; giving exercise to patience. Ex. "I have had a *weariful* bout of it."

WEARY, *adj.*

1. Feeble; sickly; puny. Ex. "It is a poor *weary* child."

2. Troublesome; vexatious. *BR. A. S. wærig, infestus.*
WEATHER-HEAD, *s.* the secondary rainbow. It

may have been so named from its being above the primary bow, and by its occasional appearance, heightening and confirming the supposed sign of fine weather. *BR. weather-gall.* In *O.E.* it was *water-gall.*

WEATHER-LAID, WEATHER-BOUND, *part.*
stopped on an intended journey by stress of weather. *BR. storm-staid.*

WEB, *s. Phr.* "The *web* of the body;" the omentum. In some of the Northern languages: the memorial note is now illegible. *Turm-naet* is the net of the intestines. A name quite similar.

WEeping-TEARS, *s. pl.* A very odd pleonasm, but in very common use for excessive sorrow. *Ex.* "I found poor Betty all in *weeping-tears*," i. e. shedding them profusely. It is very odd. It occurs in *SH.* All is Well that ends Well.

WEER, *adj.* pale and ghastly in aspect.

WELK, WELT, *v.* These two words may certainly be taken together and considered as one; though they are separated in *T. J.* and not a little confused. The two Saxon words, from which they are deducible, differ only in easily commutable letters, and the same interpretation is given of both in *Somner*. With us, they have two senses, different yet not unconnected, and each is used without distinction in either sense.

1. To soak, roll, and macerate in a fluid.
2. To expose to sun and air, and turn over in order to be dried; as grass to be converted to hay; garden plants to save their seeds, as peas and beans; or to be preserved for winter use when their moisture is exhaled, as onions. *BR.*

3. To give a sound beating, which is likely to raise *weals*, *welks*, or *welts* (ridges).

We find no difficulty in constructing the passages in *sp.* which puzzled Dr. Johnson.

A. S. *wealcan*, *wæltan*, volutare. PR. PA. GR.

WELL TO LIVE, Phr. having a competence. Ex.
"Is Mr. A. a rich man?" "Pretty *well to live*,"
or "*to do*."

WEM, *s.* a small fretted place in a garment. A. S. *wem*,
macula. W.

WENNEL, *s.* a weaned calf. T.

WET, *v.* Phr. "To *wet* the sickle," to take an allowance of beer, the evening before wheat harvest begins. Perhaps it should be *whet*. But whatever be the figure, the thing meant is perfectly well understood.

WET-SHOD, *adj.* wet in the feet. It is in T. J. as a recent addition, with a very old authority; but is still in use. W. W. R. W. C. JEN.

WEW-WOW, *v.* to wring and twist in an irregular and intricate manner.

WHART-WHARTLE, *v.* to cross; teize; and exhaust patience. It is certainly another form of *thwart*; as in the instance of over-whart. Q. V.

WHAUL, *v.* V. YAWL.

WHEELSPUN, *s.* very stout worsted yarn, spun on the common large wheel, of which the coarsest stockings, gloves, caps, &c. are made. L. SC. *wheelen*.

WHEEL-SPUR, *s.* In the old state of our cross-roads, the horse-path was in the midway between the two wheel-ruts. Between that and each rut was the *wheel-spur*, much higher than either. If,

to avoid the deep rut, a carriage drawn by a single horse was ventured upon the quarter, the horse was obliged to make the *wheel-spur* his path, often a very unsafe one, particularly in stiff soils. Perhaps therefore from Teut. *spura*, trames. BR. *spurling*, a deep rut.

WHELM, *s.* half a hollow tree, placed with its hollow side downwards, to form a small water-course.

WHELM, *v.* to turn a tub, or other vessel, upside down, whether to cover any thing with it or not. Ex. "*Whelm it down.*"

WHERRET, *v.* to pester; annoy; harrass. It has no discernible connexion in our use, with *ferreting*, nor with confusion, as is supposed in T. J. It may not improbably come from A. S. *hwæor*, flagrum.

WHEWT, *v.*

1. To whistle. O. E. "*a whewt in a friar's fist.*" Robin Hood's Garland.

2. To squeak faintly; as a young bird. Perhaps formed from the sound. BR.

WHIFF, *s.* Phr. "*Neither whiff nor whaff.*" It is applied to flavourless food; unmeaning chat, &c. *Whiff* is a slight puff. JAM. has *waff* a transient view." The compound word then; may mean something too insignificant to be noticed by the senses. And, if it be worth while to bestow even a conjectural derivation of what is so nonsensical, it may be the hybrid progeny of C. BR. *chwoyth*, flatus subitus, and A. S. *waffian*, vacillare.

WHIFFLER, *s.* one who goes at the head of a procession to clear the way for it. In that of the Corporation of Norwich from the Guild-hall to the Cathedral Church, on the Guild-day, the *whiffers*

(for they are so called) are two active men very lightly equipped (*milites expediti*), bearing swords of lath or latten, which they keep in perpetual motion, *whiffing* the air on either side, and now and then giving an unlucky boy a slap on the shoulders or posteriors with the flat side of their weapons. This may sufficiently account for the name; but if we can prove it Saxon, it will be better still. It appears that in old times, these vaunt couriers were by no means so decorously silent as ours are; but, on the contrary, very noisy fellows indeed. From two passages out of many quoted by Mr. Steevens, to explain a passage in *SH. Henry V.* which to us needs no explanation at all, we learn that they might be heard "half a mile ere they came;" and that they cleared the way "with horns." This information points clearly enough to *A. S. wæstere, blatero.*

WHILE, WHILST, *prep.* until. Mr. Pegge says the word is invariably so used in the Northern counties. It is nearly so in the Eastern. But it is in fact a noun substantive. And if such labours as those of Lambert Bos should ever be exercised on the Ellipses of the English language, this word must stand as an instance. Thus, "Stay *while* I go in." i. e. "Stay in the time (while) of my going in." "Stay *while* I return," i. e. stay to the time (while) of my return. It occurs often in *P. L.* But what is more, the sapient King James assures us, in the *Dæmonology*, that "witches cannot shed tears *while* they repent." **BR.**

WHILE, *v.* to get rid of in some idle sauntering way.

Applied only to time. Ex. "We must *while* away the time till dinner." A. S. *awyljan*, revolvère.

WHINNOCK, *v.* Intensive of *whinny* in the second sense, *q. v.*

WHINNY, *v.*

1. To neigh like a foal.

2. Fig. to snivel and whimper like a child. Lat. *hinnio*.

WHIP, *v.* Phr. "To *whip* the cat," to practise the most pinching parsimony, grudging even shreds and scraps to the cat, who is whipped if she attempts to make free with them. In Suffolk the phrase of "*whipping* the cat," is applied to a practice still in existence, but getting into disuse, of the village tailor going from house to house to work. Such a workman is said to "*whip* the cat." In Dryden's time it was the common practice. He speaks of "Half a dozen tailors cross-legged upon the great table in a gentleman's hall."

WHIPPET, *s.* a short light petticoat.

WHIPPLE-TREE, *s.* a short bar by which horses draw. *Tree* used again in the simple sense of wood.

WHISKET, *s.* a small parcel. BR. T. B. a basket.

WHITE-BACK, *s.* the white poplar, *Populus alba*, Lin. So called from the whiteness of the under side of the leaves.

WHITE-HERRING, *s.* a fresh herring. N. G. In the North a pickled herring is so called. BR.

WHITTERY, *adj.* pale and sickly. Chiefly, if not solely, applied to puny children. Ex. "It is a poor *whittèry* brat."

WHOLE-FOOTED, *adj.*

1. Treading flat and heavy, as if there were no joints in the feet.
2. Very intimate; closely confederate. A figurative expression doubtless. But it is not easy to comprehend what the figure is meant to be. *Whole-handed*, which is used in the same sense, is far more intelligible. Hand joined in hand is a good image of intimacy and confederacy.

WHOP, WHAP, *s.* a heavy blow. **JEN.**

WHOP, WHAP, *v.* to beat severely.

WHOPPER, *s.* any thing uncommonly large. **Ex.**

"That's a *whopper*!" *q. d.* a monstrous lie. **N. E.**

WHOS', *pron.* whoso. "*Whos'* wull may do that."

WHYBIBBLE, *s.* a whimsy; idle fancy; silly scruple, &c.

WICK, *s.* A frequent Saxon termination of names of places, which seems to have some variety of meaning, but is no doubt from the Latin *vicus*. The word, in its simple form, is of very rare occurrence; but a few instances may be produced in which it means a farm. There is one at a short distance from the town of Watton, commonly called Watton-wick, but by the inhabitants, simply the *Wick*. There is also Castle-wicken, called in like manner the *Wicken*. It is at present only one farm, though it must have been originally more than one, which is obvious from its Saxon plural name.

WIDDLES, *s. pl.* very young ducks.

WILCH, *s.* the wicker strainer set upright in the mash-tub, to prevent the grains from running off with the wort. **V. THEAD.**

WILL-A-WIX, *s.* an owl.

WIND-EGG, *s.* an addle egg ; or an egg without a yolk.

WINDERS, *s. pl.* the women who perform the office of giving the last attire to the dead, and watch the body till the time of burial.

WINDING, *s.* the wool in which the bodies of the poor are wrapped, or rather covered when deposited in their coffins. A single pound is so drawn out and artfully disposed, as to suffice for a large body. In Suffolk the flannel, which is wound round a corpse, is called a *winding*.

WINDON, *s.* a window. O. E.

WINDOW-PEEPER, *s.* the district surveyor of taxes, who takes his round occasionally, to spy out whether the account of windows delivered to him by the assessors of parishes be correct.

WINDROW, *s.* a row of mown grass, put together in the process of hay-making to be ventilated, when far advanced towards completion.

WINDROW, *v.* to put the nearly-made hay into such a form.

WINGE, *v.* to shrivel ; as fruit over-kept.

WINNOL-WEATHER, *s.* the stormy weather which is common in the beginning of March. The third day of that month is the anniversary of St. Winwaloe, a British Saint, whose interesting biographical memoirs are to be found in Butler's Lives of the Saints ; though much uncertainty seems to exist about the proper mode of spelling his name, which in common usage, to save trouble, is shortened to *winwol*. A small priory, or rather cell, of

- which some highly curious remains still exist, was dedicated to this respectable Saint at the northern extremity of the parish of Wereham in Norfolk ; where a very celebrated and much frequented horse-fair, called by the name of the Saint, was held annually on his day. Some years ago, the land was alienated, but the right of holding the fair reserved. Subsequently it was removed to Downham Market, certainly a more commodious place to receive and accommodate the multitudes who attend it, but as the old name is retained, topographical, if not historical truth and propriety, are violated. However, as a compensation, the new spot on which the fair is held, being perfectly level and dry, is much better suited to show off horses to advantage. A farther advantage is, that it happens to bear a very ancient and expressive denomination ; the *Howdell*, or *Howdale*, q. d. the dell or dale among hills (A. S. *how*), the ground gently rising on every side of it.
- WISHLY**, *adv.* earnestly ; wishfully ; with longing. Not in use says Mr. Todd. We beg Mr. Todd's pardon. It is in very common use. Ex. "The lad looked so *wishly* at her !" "The children eyed the plum-pudding *wishly*."
- WIT**, *s.* common sense. CH. &c. Ex. "He did it without fear or *wit*," q. d. with a foolish want of thought.
- WITHOUT**, *conj.* unless. Ex. "I will not go, *without* you will go with me." PE.
- WIZZEN**, *v.* to wither ; shrivel ; dry up. Common in parts of the North, says T. J. And in all parts of the East, say we. A. S. *wisnian*, *arescere*. W. C. BR.

WO, *s.* stop; check. Ex. "There is no *wo* in him."
 "He knows no *wo*." PE. We here confound two words, easily enough confounded indeed, but of meanings even directly opposite. Substituting *ho* for *wo*, the phrases above cited, are very well known O. E. For examples, V. N. G. *Ho!* was the authoritative and decisive word pronounced by the presiding authority at a tournament, or judicial combat, which put an immediate end to it. On the contrary, *wo* is another form of *go*.

WOBBLE, *v.* to reel; totter; or move uneasily and laboriously. In B. G. it is *wauble*, and means "to move like a worm." JAM. gives it the same meaning, and derives it from Teut. *warbelen*, *gyros agere*.

WOLDER, *s.* a rolled bandage.

WOLDER, *v.* to wrap or roll up in a bandage.

WOLF, *s.*

1. A preternatural or excessive craving for food.
 "Surely he must have a *wolf* in his stomach."
2. A gnawing internal pain, proceeding from cancer or other ulcer, which, as a ravenous beast, preys on the intestines. A poor woman, whose husband had long been thus afflicted, and who had, with much difficulty, been prevailed upon to allow his body to be opened, told the author, that the Doctors had found *the wolf*, and carried it away. Had she supposed it to be a morbid part of the body, she would certainly not have allowed this; but she believed, *bonâ fide*, that it was a voracious animal, which had somehow found its way in, and had been detected and turned out, too late.

WONG, *s.* an agricultural division or district of some uninclosed parishes. Spelman says it is rather of arable than of pasture land. "*Campus potius opinor seminalis quam pascuus.*" But it seems very indefinite. It is not very uncommon. In the parish of Horningtoft, in Norfolk, for instance, there is the *How-wong*, *q. d.* the *wong* by the *hill*; and it answers tolerably well to its name, being near one of those gentle risings of surface, which we East Angles are apt to call hills, and get laughed at. *A. s. wong, campus.*

WOOSH, WOOSH! *interj.* A word very perversely used; for it certainly comes from Fr. *gauche*, yet it means, in the mouths of our team-drivers the very reverse! "*Woosh wo!*" means "Go to the right!" However, as the driver always walks on the left, or near side of his team, and there only is in his proper place, and to be on the right or off side, would be wrong, awkward (*gauche*, in the very common sense of that word,) he may possibly be thought in some degree warranted in the confusion he makes of right and left.

WOOD-LANDS, *s.* The district, usually called High Suffolk, is still distinguished by the inhabitants of the eastern coast of that county by the name of *the Woodlands*, though now the name is far from applicable. Formerly, indeed, and within living memory, it was very thickly wooded.

WOOD-SPRITE, *s.* the wood-pecker.

WOP, *v.* to produce an abortive lamb. The word is as peculiarly applied to ewes, as *slip* is to cows. The ewe *wops* her lamb, the cow *slips* her calf. It is a

short pronunciation of *warp* without the *r*. But seems to come nearer to A. S. *worpan*, *jacere*.

WORFOR, *adv.* wherefore. Corrupt as it may seem to be, and indeed certainly is, it deserves insertion, as being of 400 years standing among us. In the fifteenth century it was used by persons of condition. They even wrote it, and they certainly wrote as they pronounced. It is in the P. L. We also use *woffer* and *thoffer*.

WORD, *v.* to dispute; to wrangle. Ex. "They *worded* it a long while."

WORK, *v.* to ache; to throb. In violent head-ache, the head "*works* like a clock." Not merely the verb, but the compound word is Saxon. A. S. *hæfod-wærc*, cephalalgia. N. E. and L. sc. *wark*.

WORK-WISE, *adv.* in a work-man-like manner; as such work (whatsoever it be) ought to be done. Ex. "I thought he did not handle his tools *work-wise*."

WORTHY, *adv.* lucky enough. Ex. "If I had but been *worthy* to know that." Sometimes *worthy* is added at the end of another word, to convey the idea of being capable of, or fit for. Ex. "I will level this pit to make the land plough-*worthy*," i. e. capable of being ploughed, fit for the plough.

WOWL, *v.* to howl; to wail vociferously. Intens. of *wail*.

WRATTLE, *v.* to dry or parch.

WRASTLING-POLE, *s.* a pole to spread fire about the oven, or to beat wallnuts from the trees. Both these processes seem to include the idea of drying

or parching. But the word seems connected by metath. with *arseling-pole*. q. v.

WRET, *s.* a wart. Belg. *wratte*, verruca. L. sc. *wrat*.
BR.

WRET-WEED, *s.* any wild species of euphorbia ; in particular, perhaps, *E. helioscopia*, Lin. The acrid milk-like juice of these plants is often applied to warts, and not without success, nor without some risk.

WRIGGLERS, *s. pl.* small fish, of which commoner names are *sand-eels* or *lance-fish*. They are found in abundance on some parts of our north coast. They are of the genus *Ammodytes*, Pen. Brit. Zool. and seem to have obtained their provincial or rather local name, from working their way in the sand, by a vermicular motion to the depth of several inches. They are principally used as bait for cod, &c. but by some persons dressed for the table, and even considered as a great delicacy.

WRONG, *adj.* deformed ; mishapen in person.

WRONG, *s.* a crooked bough.

WRY, *v.* to cover close. O. E. CH. has "*wrie* him warm." A. S. *wrigan*, velare. L. sc.

WRYING, *s.* covering, of bed-clothes, &c. not of apparel.

WRY-RUMPED, *adj.* having an obliquity of form in the lower part of the back.

Y.

YALE, *s.* a small quantity.

YANGLE, *v.* to tether a horse by fastening a foreleg and a hindleg together.

YAP, *v.* to yelp. *Isl.* *yapa*, *hiare*. *T. J.* from *L'Es-trange*.

YAP, *s.* a yelping cur. We have the venerable authority of *Dr. Caius* for *wappe*, which comes very near our word. And we have its dimin. *wappet*.

A. s. *gep*, *astutus*. *L. sc.* *yaff*.

YARD, *s.* The garden belonging to a cottage or ordinary messuage, is very often called the *yard*; perhaps from humility, as unworthy to be called a garden. *Ex.* "We have a sort of fape-bushes in the *yard*." Be this as it may, the word in this sense is genuine Saxon. *A. s.* *ȝrd*, *hortus*.

YARD-MAN, *s.* the hind who has the particular care of the farm-yard, and of the cattle fed there.

YARM, **YAWM**, *v.* to shriek or yell. *A. s.* *geome-rian*. *L. sc.* *yawmer*.

YARROWAY, *s.* the common yarrow, *Achillæa millefolium*, *Lin.* A plant of omen, *V.* in *APPENDIX*.

YAWL, *v.* to squall or scream harshly, like an enraged cat; or the cry of a peacock is an excellent instance of yawling.

YELK, **YULK**, *v.* to knead clay with straw or stubble, to prepare it for dawber's work.

YELM, *v.* to lay straw in convenient quantities, and in regular order, to be used by a thatcher.

YELM, *s.* a portion of straw laid for that purpose; or

as much as can be conveniently carried under the arm for any purpose. A. S. *hælm*, culmus; or *gylm*, manipulus.

YERBES, *s. pl.* herbs. V. D.

YERTH, *s.* earth. Both these words are O. E. occurring in P. B. and other places. V. D.

YIN, *adj.* yon.

YINDER, *adv.* yonder. R. N. C. *yeander*.

YIP, *v.* to chirp like a newly hatched chicken, or other very young bird.

YIPPER, *adj.* brisk. B. JON. uses *yrpe* in the same sense, and it is doubtless the same word. The transition is easy to *yirpe*, and from that to *yipre*. It may be safe to assign to this word the etymon which JAM. gives for *uppish*, in which case it does not seem at all necessary to go so far. Sui.-G. *yppa*, elevare.

YOWE, *s.* an ewe. A. S. *ewe* and N. Fr. *eaux*.

YULK, *v.* V. JULK.



A P P E N D I X.

ON THE POPULAR SUPERSTITIONS OF EAST ANGLIA.

THE reader, who may expect to find in the remains of the popular superstitions of East Anglia any thing grand or terrific, or even romantic and poetical, will most assuredly be sadly disappointed. The belief in supernatural appearances, or agency, is often closely connected with the natural features and formation of the country in which it prevails, or perhaps derivable from them. In mountainous districts the face of nature is so awful and magnificent, that, of itself, it elevates the mind, and disposes the imagination to invest the rocks and precipices, the caves and torrents, with ideal terrors, and to people them with spiritual inhabitants. In such countries, therefore, we may expect to hear of "the Spirit of the Hill," and "the Spirit of the Flood;" that every lake will have its "kelpie," and every mountain its presiding demon. The caves of the rocks will be haunted by the "swart goblin of the mine;" and the wild heaths will be the residence of the "brown man of the moors."—The play of imagination, in short, will be proportioned to its exciting causes; and the

objects of popular belief will be wild or gloomy, sublime or terrible, in correspondence at least, if not in strict accordance, with the scenes in which they were engendered. But, if there be any truth in this, a very different result may be expected, where the tame and level surface of the country, only varied by gentle undulations, and seldom rising into hills, presents little to elevate the mind, or to excite the fancy. In such a country, the imagination would be as dormant, as so active a faculty can be supposed to remain; or, at the utmost, would only indulge itself in such modest excursions as the peaceful and unvarying habits of rural occupations and domestic life may fairly be supposed to suggest. We might look for the "drudging goblin," that threshes the corn; or for the housewifely fairy, that rewards the cleanliness of the dairy-maid with a "silver sixpence." Occasionally, perhaps, a ghost might walk, or an old manor-house might be haunted. An unusual disease in the cattle might suggest the idea of witchcraft; or a strong desire of prying into futurity might lead to the consultation with the "wise woman." But these, or such as these, are almost the only forms of intercourse with the supernatural or invisible world, which we could reasonably expect in such a district. The description which has just been given agrees with East Anglia and its superstitions. It is a level, fertile country, with few bold hills, and no grand features. It has not much that is beautiful, and nothing that is picturesque; but it is thickly peopled, and highly cultivated; its roads, even its cross roads, are excellent; provisions are plentiful; communication easy; and social intercourse active and universal. In

short, it is an excellent country to live in. But the very causes that have produced the substantial comforts of every-day life, have greatly deprived it of its interest as a depository of superstitious belief. We partake of the mediocrity of our scenery; and we may fairly conclude that we never had any superstitions but such as are homely and domestic; and even these are fast wearing away. The very fairies would be forgotten, but for the rings in the meadows that bear their name; and the mermaid is only remembered as a bug-bear to frighten children from the water. The modes of thinking in any country may in some measure be collected from its language; and ours is distinctively the language of common life. There is little in it that is figurative, and it borrows nothing from the imagination. Indeed, I know but one word in the peculiar dialect of East Anglia that can be said to be poetical, and this is the popular name of the wood-pecker; which, from its startling cry and glancing flight, is called the "Wood-sprite." The name is pretty and appropriate; but I believe the instance is a solitary one.

There is also another reason to be given, which may in some measure account for the absence of what may be called the Poetry of Superstition. About two centuries ago, the province of East Anglia was the principal seat of a stern fanaticism, which by degrees overspread the whole kingdom. But this was its cradle; and the favourite residence of its maturity. The counties which composed the East Anglian kingdom were the first to associate in support of the Parliament against King Charles the First; and the principles of

Puritanism prevailed here for many years in their utmost vigour. It is scarcely necessary to say, that the Puritans abhorred and proscribed every superstition but their own; which consisted principally in a firm belief in witchcraft. But all the fables, and legends, and miracles, with which the Romish Church had embroidered its belief, were torn away with unrelenting severity. Considering the great number of religious houses which were scattered over the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and two of them so distinguished as Walsingham and St. Edmund's-Bury, it is really surprising how little is left of their faith or practices. The few instances that can be collected will be mentioned; but they are so few, that they appear to require this explanation to account for the smallness of the number.

Witchcraft.

It has been mentioned above that the Puritans entertained a strong belief in witchcraft. They not only believed in it, and acted upon this belief themselves, but they bequeathed it to their descendants. The belief still continues. In fact it is the only really popular and prevailing instance of superstition existing amongst us; and, although not now so triumphant as in the days of "Hopkins, the witch-finder general," when sixty witches were hanged in one year in the county of Suffolk; yet still, if the reward of ten pounds were again offered for the discovery of every witch, a sufficient number would be found to furnish a decent income to any modern Hopkins. Indeed the soil appears

to have been always peculiarly favourable to the production of witches. As early as the reign of Henry the Sixth, "Margery Jourdemayn, the famous witch of Eye," was employed by the Duchess of Gloucester, wife of the good Duke Humphry. That there was a succession of "wise women" to fill the place of this celebrated professor, cannot be doubted; but, having had the good fortune to escape being burnt in Smithfield for high treason, their names are not recorded. In the latter part of the last century, however, the immediate neighbourhood of Eye was again distinguished by the residence of a Sybil, who, under the name of "Old Nan Barret," enjoyed for more than forty years a reputation only inferior to that of her renowned predecessor. She was not indeed sought after by royalty, nor probably much known out of "the two counties;" but in them she was held in high veneration, and it was no unusual thing for people to go thirty or forty miles to consult her. We have perhaps no person of equal celebrity at present; but there are still many of humbler fame, who are the oracles of their respective districts.

The belief that witches are inclined to injure others gratuitously, and of mere malice, appears to be much upon the decline. It was at its greatest height amongst us towards the middle of the seventeenth century; about which time (viz. in 1645) it was seriously alleged in a court of justice against the Rev. John Lowes, vicar of Brandeston, in Suffolk, (one of the sixty who were tried at Bury,) upon his own extorted confession, "that being near the sea, and seeing a ship under sail, one of the imps who attended him, requested to be sent to

sink it; that he consented, and saw it without any other apparent cause, sink before his eyes." Upon evidence like this the poor old man was convicted; and, being denied Christian burial, read the funeral service over himself in the way to the gallows. In 1664, Rose Cullender and Amy Duny were tried at the Assizes held in the same place before the great Sir Mathew Hale for bewitching six children at Lowestoffe, "from motives of mere spite and malice," and were also convicted and executed. This was the last execution for this crime in Suffolk. But the belief in the malignant and vindictive exercise of the power of witches survived in full force to the end of the century. In 1693 a book was published by "Samuel Petto, Minister of the Gospel at Sudbury, in Suffolk," containing a "faithful Narrative of the wonderful and extraordinary Fits, which Mr. Thomas Spatchett (late of Dunwich and Cookly) was under by Witchcraft." It is a thin quarto of thirty-five pages; and proves, curiously enough, the perverse inclination, then prevailing, of imputing any unusual symptoms of disease to witchcraft. In this case also it appears that a confession of her guilt was extorted from the suspected witch. But it should seem that the appetite for judicial murder on this account was glutted, or that courts of justice were not so ready to entertain cases of this kind; for the author feelingly complains, "that notwithstanding what could be witnessed against her, yet she was sent home; and nothing in point of law was done against her." After the cessation of legal prosecutions for witchcraft, it is probable that the popular belief in the inclination and power of witches to inflict

malicious injuries on their neighbours gradually declined. But that it had still a considerable hold on the opinions of persons above the lowest class of the community, is very clear, from an occurrence that took place at Ipswich in 1744, which will be mentioned in another place. From that time to the present, it has continued to lose ground, but is yet far from being extinct amongst us. No longer ago than the summer of 1825, an old man was "swum," in the presence of a large concourse of people, in the parish of Wickham-Skeith, in Suffolk, for the supposed crime of bewitching one of his female neighbours. There was nothing amatory in the case, but much of arrant ignorance and superstition. There had been, it seems, a quarrel between the parties respecting a pig; in consequence of which the man had uttered threats, or was supposed to harbour revenge. Soon after this, the woman (who was occasionally disturbed in her mind) was seized with odd symptoms, and began to exhibit strange vagaries. Amongst other pranks, it was affirmed and believed, that she would run up the walls of the room, and hang upon the joists or beams in the ceiling like a cat; a feat which, it was unanimously agreed, no one could have performed unless she was *possessed*. It was accordingly decided by the wise heads of the parish, that the woman was bewitched, and that the man had bewitched her. But to put the matter beyond a doubt, it was determined to swim him; and this sentence was put in execution in "the Grimmer," a large pond upon the village green. And sure enough their suspicions were fully confirmed; for, when he was put into the water, he floated like a cork. After

many and unavailing efforts to make him sink, which were continued for three quarters of an hour, the poor old man was suffered to escape. But it was not without difficulty that he was rescued from a repetition of the ordeal, by the active interference of the minister and churchwardens of the parish, as soon as it came to their knowledge; and it was with still greater difficulty that the belief of his supernatural power of doing mischief was eradicated from the minds of his neighbours. Great pains were taken for this purpose by the clergyman; but, after all the arguments that could be used, many of them were rather shamed out of the avowal, than convinced of the absurdity of the superstition.*

Sometimes, however, the revenge of witches was exercised rather in a sportive than a malignant spirit: and of this an instance was told, and religiously believed, in Norfolk, towards the end of the last century. A farmer's wife had lost some feathers, and consulted the celebrated "Nan Barrett" on the surest mode of recovering them. The Sybil assured her that they should be brought back; but the niggardly housewife, having obtained this assurance, refused to pay the old woman her accustomed fee. Provoked, as she well might be, at being thus bilked, the prophetess

* There was an account of this affair in the Times newspaper of July 19, 1825, copied from the Suffolk Chronicle, which differs in some respects from that given in the text, and mentions two persons as being supposed to be bewitched. The story, as here related, was taken from the mouth of a respectable parishioner; but they differ little more than is usual with two versions of the same story.

repeated the assurance that the feathers should come back, but added, "that the owner should not be the better for them." The enquirer, however, fully satisfied that she should recover her goods, laughed at the threat, and returned in high glee, congratulating herself on having outwitted the witch, and obtained the information so cheaply. As soon as she got home, she called her maids to go to milking; and when they had about half done, hearing a slight noise, she raised her head, and saw her feathers come flying into the milking-yard like a swarm of bees; and, to her great annoyance, beheld them direct their flight towards the cows, and settle themselves snugly in the half-filled milk-pails: thus spoiling at once both milk and feathers. It will readily be imagined that, after this catastrophe, no one ever ventured to defraud Mrs. Barrett of her dues.

Where the power of witches is generally acknowledged, it is natural to suppose that some precautions would be adopted to prevent its exercise. It does not appear, however, that any other preventative has been in use in East Anglia, except the very general one of nailing a horseshoe to the threshold. The belief is, that a witch cannot pass over the threshold on which a horseshoe is nailed, with the open part upwards; or, at least, that she cannot perform her diabolical feats within the door to which it belongs. Undoubtedly the number of cottage doors thus guarded is much less than it was some years ago; but the talisman is still to be seen, and sufficiently indicates the existence of the belief.

There is, indeed, another prophylactick, but which,

from its nature, can only be resorted to in extreme cases. Where a witch is known to harbour resentment against any one, or to have expressed an intention of doing him an injury, it is held to be a sure preservative, if the party threatened can draw blood from the sorceress: and many a poor old woman has been scarified, from the received opinion that a witch will not "*come to the scratch.*"

Next to prevention comes the remedy; and the following is considered as a specific. If in the near neighbourhood, or any where indeed within the malignant influence of a known witch, a child is afflicted with an obstinate ague, a great many worms, or any pining sickness; if a calf be dizzy, or a cow "tail-shotten," or have "gargot," or "red-water," so that it may *reasonably* be concluded to be bewitched; the most effectual remedy, or mode of exorcism, is to take a quantity of the patient's urine, and boil it with nine nails from as many old horseshoes. The process is to begin exactly at midnight. The conductress of it is to have an assistant to obey orders, but is to touch nothing herself. This is much like Simætha and Thestylis in Theocritus; indeed, all these things have a very classic air; the chief difference is, that these orders must be conveyed by signs. A single word mars the whole charm. At a certain critical point in the process, when three, five, or seven of the nails have been put in motion at once by the force of the boiling fluid (for some cases are more difficult than others), the spirit is cast out: at which happy moment, the child squalls, the cow "blores," or the calf "blares;" convalescence immediately commences of course. The good woman, from

whom the author obtained this valuable information about forty years ago (not immediately, indeed, nor without some little breach of confidence), confirmed it by recounting a failure that once befel herself. She had prevailed on a boy to sit up with her. All was going on most prosperously. The hob-nails were in merry motion. The child in the cradle squalled. The boy, in a cold sweat, ventured to look behind him : he was so overpowered with terror, that he forgot all the cautions he had received, and called to his mistress to look at the little black thing, which was endeavouring to escape through the key-hole. This was, no doubt, the evil spirit ; which, thus recalled, must have entered the poor child again, for it certainly never recovered.

Towards the middle of the last century, an exorcism of a much more horrible kind was occasionally resorted to, which was supposed to bring upon the witch herself the sufferings of her victim. If an animal was supposed to be bewitched, and to be past hope of recovery, it was suspended by its four feet over a large fire, and burned to ashes : and it was firmly believed that the witch herself would consume away at the same time, and in exact proportion with the poor animal she had tormented. Sometimes, as soon as the fire was applied, the suspected sorceress would come to the door of the house in the utmost agony of alarm ; and if she was admitted, and allowed to extinguish the fire, she would escape with no other injury than a few kicks and curses, the natural consequence of detection. But if the animal was consumed in the fire, so was the witch also, at whatever distance she might be, by a sympathetic combustion. An instance of this is said

to have occurred in the neighbourhood of Ipswich about the time above-mentioned, viz. in 1744. A sheep, which was believed to be bewitched, was the subject of this inhuman experiment ; and it was wholly consumed in the fire, except the feet, by which it was suspended. As soon as the sheep was reduced to ashes, a messenger was dispatched to the residence of the suspected witch, a woman of the name of Pett, at Ipswich ; and, upon entering her house, he found the remains of her body lying upon the floor before the fire, entirely burnt to a cinder, except the hands and the feet : but the boarded floor, on which she lay, was not even scorched.

The relator of this story, a most respectable yeoman, did not hesitate to avow his implicit belief of the fact ; and undoubtedly he spoke the sentiments of the generality of his class at the time in question.* It is but justice, however, to the present inhabitants of East Anglia to add, that no such practice now prevails ; and that the suggestion of such barbarity would be received with universal disgust and abhorrence.

At present, indeed, (notwithstanding the instance of superstitious credulity, which has been mentioned as occurring within three years,) the power principally attributed to witches amongst us is that of foretelling future events, and of discovering the possessors of stolen goods. In this we still implicitly believe : and

* A curious account of this is to be found in the Ipswich Magazine for April 1799, in which the fact of the woman's death in the manner described is admitted, and is endeavoured to be accounted for by the theory of spontaneous combustion.

it is surely no very degrading imputation upon our lower classes, that they are now but little more enlightened than the great luminaries of the law two centuries ago. A deeply rooted superstition is not easily eradicated; and at present it appears to bid defiance to the "march of intellect," which has brushed away much of our rustic simplicity, and effected a prodigious refinement in our persons and manners. The village lass still hoards her sixpence, that she may cross the hand of the fortune-teller with silver, and learn the events of her future life: and, amongst those of a somewhat higher rank, it is not uncommonly the first thought that occurs to a person who has been robbed, to consult the "wise woman," or the "cunning man." It is, however, a good symptom, that this is seldom done openly. They entertain the belief, but are ashamed to own it; and there may be just grounds to hope, that the superstition, which nobody cares to avow, is in a fair way to lose its influence.

One circumstance more remains to be mentioned with respect to witches. It is generally believed that a witch, or wizard, be his size or corpulence what it may, cannot weigh down the church bible: and many instances might be cited of persons accused of witchcraft applying to the clergyman of the parish to be allowed to prove their innocence by this ordeal. This trial, however, is not considered quite satisfactory, when the suspicion is very strong against the party accused. The only sure criterion by which his guilt or innocence can be satisfactorily ascertained, is still believed to be by swimming. The actual experiment is now of rare occurrence; but the practice was once

so common, that tradition points out several pieces of water as having been customarily used for this purpose; and, in particular, in the river Waveney, near Harleston, in Norfolk, a deep hole at a bend of the stream is still known by the name of the Witch-pool.

Divination by Bible and Key.

When any property has been stolen, and a strong suspicion attaches to a particular person, against whom no positive evidence can be obtained, recourse is sometimes had to this mode of divination, which is performed in two different ways. In both of them the key of the church door, and the church bible are the instruments employed. In one way of performing the ceremony, the suspected person and the owner of the stolen goods are the only agents. The key is inserted between the leaves of the bible, with the bow and part of the stalk protruding at one end. The book is then tied together very tightly, so that its weight may be supported by the key. The bible is then set on the other end, and is raised from the ground by the supposed thief and the person robbed, each supporting the weight by one or two fingers placed under the bow of the key, opposite to each other. Whilst the book is thus suspended between them, a form of adjuration is pronounced with due solemnity; and it is believed that, if the suspected person be guilty, the bible will of itself turn towards him, and as it were point out the culprit.

The other mode of divination is used when the suspicion is divided amongst many. The parties sus-

pected are arranged round a table, on which is laid the bible, with the key upon it. The owner of the stolen goods then takes the key by the middle, and gives it a strong twirl, so that it turns round several times. The person, opposite to whom it stops, is the thief.

There is a third kind of divination by the same instruments, but with this difference, that neither the church bible nor the key of the church door are requisite. Any common bible, and any large key will answer the purpose. The object also of the divination in this case is widely different from those which have been mentioned. It is resorted to by young women, for the purpose of ascertaining the first letter of their future husband's name. The mode of operation is as follows: the key is to be inserted between the leaves of the bible, exactly over the 6th and 7th verses of the last chapter of Solomon's Song. The person who makes the inquiry is then to tie the bible closely together with the garter taken from her right knee; and she and some other female are to suspend it, by placing each a finger under the bow of the key. The enquirer is then to repeat the two verses to every letter of the alphabet, beginning with A, till she comes to the letter which is the initial of her future husband's name. As soon as she pronounces this happy letter, the bible will turn round. It will sometimes happen that, by awkwardness, or defect of management, (for no want of good will can be supposed) the bible will obstinately refuse to move; and, whenever this is the case, the party inquiring is certainly destined to die an old maid.

Opening the Bible on New Year's Day.

This superstitious practice is still in common use, and much credit is attached to it. It is usually set about with some little solemnity, on the morning of New Year's-day before breakfast, as the ceremony must be performed fasting. The bible is laid on the table unopened; and the parties who wish to consult it are then to open it in succession. They are not at liberty to choose any particular part of the book, but must open it at random, or (as we should say) "*promiscuously*." Wherever this may happen to be, the inquirer is to place his finger on any chapter contained in the two open pages, but without any previous perusal or examination. The chapter is then read aloud, and commented upon by the company assembled. It is believed that the good or ill fortune, the happiness or misery of the consulting party, during the ensuing year, will in some way or other be described and fore-shewn by the contents of the chapter. Of course a good deal of perverse ingenuity is often exercised in twisting and accommodating the sacred text to the fears or wishes of the consulters; and some have made themselves very wretched, when they have unfortunately opened on any of the prophetic denunciations of divine vengeance. If the chapter happens to contain nothing remarkable, it is concluded that no material change in the circumstances of the inquirer will take place within the year.

The reader will probably require little argument to convince him, that these modes of divination have de-

scended to us from our Puritanical ancestors. They are well-known to have used the bible with a familiarity approaching to irreverence ; and to have had recourse to it for the knowledge of future events, as the pedants of a preceding age consulted the “Sortes Virgilianæ.” But, with all their fanaticism, our worthy forefathers had a great deal of shrewdness and good sense : and it is not improbable, that, in the establishing the divination by the bible and key for the discovery of theft, they may have relied considerably on the power of conscience, and on its natural effect, when strongly excited, of indicating guilt. Certain it is, that culprits have not unfrequently betrayed themselves by their emotions, or precautions, on these occasions. The practice is, no doubt, superstitious enough : but it cannot fairly be made a subject of ridicule against us by those who, in this intellectual age, place implicit confidence in the virtues of the divining-rod.

The Wishing Wells at Walsingham.

Amongst the slender remains of this once celebrated seat of superstitious devotion, are two small circular basons of stone, a little to the north-east of the site of the conventual church, (exactly in the place described by Erasmus in his “Peregrinatio religionis ergo,”) and connected with the chapel of the Virgin, which was on the north side of the choir. The water of these wells had at that time a miraculous efficacy in curing disorders of the head and stomach, the special gift, no doubt, of the Holy Virgin : who has probably since

that time resumed it, for the waters have no such quality now. She has substituted, however, another of far more comprehensive virtue. This is nothing less than the power of accomplishing all human wishes, which miraculous property the water is still believed to possess. In order to attain this desirable end, the votary, with a due qualification of faith and pious awe, must apply the right knee, bare, to a stone placed for that purpose between the wells. He must then plunge to the wrist each hand, bare also, into the water of the wells, which are near enough to admit of this immersion. A wish must then be formed, but not uttered with the lips, either at the time or afterwards, even in confidential communication to the dearest friend. The hands are then to be withdrawn, and as much of the water as can be contained in the hollow of each is to be swallowed. Formerly the object of desire was most probably expressed in a prayer to the Virgin. It is now only a silent wish : which will certainly be accomplished within twelvemonths, if the efficacy of the solemn rite be not frustrated by the incredulity or some other fault of the votary.

Good Friday Bread.

A small loaf, or cake (as it is called) of bread, is baked yearly on the morning of Good Friday. It is composed of the usual materials of wheaten bread, and no particular ceremonies (as far as could be learned) are used in making it. It must be well baked, and then set by, and kept till the return of the same day the following year. This bread is not intended to be

eaten, but to be used as a medicine; and the mode of administering it is, by grating a small portion of it into water, and forming a sort of panada. It is believed to be good for many disorders, but particularly for a diarrhœa, for which it is considered a sovereign remedy. Not more than three years ago, a cottager lamented to the author, that her poor neighbour must certainly die of this complaint, for that she had already given her two doses of Good Friday-bread without any benefit. The patient, however, recovered. No information could be obtained from the doctress respecting her nostrum, but that she had heard old folks say that it was a good thing, and that she always made it.

This superstition, as well as the preceding, most probably has descended to us from the Catholics.

The twelve Signs.

We still cling to the notion of planetary influence on the human body. And though the progress of refinement has divested our Almanacks of their formerly indispensable ornament, the figure of a naked man pierced through with darts; yet the doctrine of the "Dominion of the moon on man's body, passing under the twelve zodiacal constellations," (as Francis Moore expresses it,) has even now many believers. It is considered a matter of imprudence, if not of danger, to tamper with any part of the body on the day when the column of that sage physician shews it to be under the dominion of the stars; or, as our phrase is, "*when the sign lies in it.*" Perhaps our opinion upon this subject may be best explained by an example: About the close

of the last century, a medical practitioner of great eminence in Suffolk sent a purge to a patient, and desired him to take it immediately. On the following day he called at his house, and inquired how it had operated. The patient (a substantial farmer) said he had not taken it: and upon the doctor's remonstrating against this disobedience, the sick man gravely answered, "That he had looked into his Almanack, and seeing the sign lay in 'Bowels,' he thought *that*, and the physic together, would be too much for him."

Nor are the stars believed to influence the human body only, but to have an equal effect upon brutes. A prudent dairy-wife would never wean a calf when the sign was in the head, lest it should go dizzy; and the author well remembers to have heard a wealthy yeoman inquire of a farrier, when he would perform a certain operation on his colt. The leech assumed a most oracular look, and answered with great gravity, that "he would just step home, and see how the sign lay, and would then let him know."

Indeed we carry our belief further than even this, for we extend it to the dead bodies of animals. It is probably not a universal, but certainly a very general precaution, to kill hogs in the increase of the moon; because it is "an admitted fact," that pork, killed in the wane of the moon, shrinks in boiling.

Childermas Day.

On whatever day of the week the anniversary of the Holy Innocents (December 28th) may fall, that same day in every week throught the ensuing year, is called

Childermas Day. It is "Dies nefastus." Any new undertaking begun upon it will surely fail; and any disaster, which may befall any one, is easily accounted for. That this strange extension of the term "*the Mass of Children*," beyond its own proper day, existed above an hundred years ago, appears from the paper in the Spectator, No. 7. There was then, as now, a Childermas-day in every week.

The wandering Jew.

This venerable personage still continues his wearisome pilgrimage. Nobody, indeed, professes to have seen him; but many have heard their grandmothers say that he appeared in their time. The circumstance of his history, as given by Mathew Paris, quoted by Brand, in the Appendix to his enlarged edition of Bourne's "Popular Antiquities" (but not worth repeating here) do not appear to be much known! and the wanderer is generally believed to be St. John, "tarrying till his Lord comes." (21st St. John, ver. 22). Indeed it is probable that the text was the origin of the whole fable by absurd misrepresentation. His memory is now principally preserved in an allusive comparison. Of any one, who is in unquiet motion from place to place, it is said, "He is as unsettled as the wandering Jew."

A failure of the Crop of Ash-keys portends a death in the Royal Family.

With what obscure traditionary or legendary tale this foolish notion may be connected, it seems impossible to discover. Probably, however, there is some such connexion. But, be this as it may, the notion is still current amongst us. The failure in question is certainly, in some seasons, very remarkable; and many an old woman believes that, if she were the fortunate finder of a bunch, and could get introduced to the king, he would give her a great deal of money for it.

Christening a Cure for Sickness.

It is generally believed by East Anglian nurses that a child never thrives well till it is named; and this is one cause of the earnest desire, frequently expressed, to have children privately baptized. If the child is sick, it is even supposed to promote the cure: and this virtue is also believed to be inherent in the rite of confirmation. At one of the Confirmations of the present venerable Bishop of Norwich, an old woman was observed eagerly pressing forwards to the church. A stander-by, struck with the contrast between her and the youthful candidates around her, inquired if she was going to be confirmed: and being answered in the affirmative, expressed his surprise that she should have deferred it to such an advanced age. The old woman replied with some degree of asperity, "that it was not

so ; that she had already been bishopped seven times, and intended to be again : it was so good for her rheumatism."

(Burial within, or without, the Sanctuary.

To be buried out of the sanctuary does not mean interment in unconsecrated ground, but in some remote part of the church-yard, apart from that in which the bodies of the inhabitants in general are deposited. In many church-yards may be seen a row of graves on the extreme verge, which are occupied by the bodies of strangers buried at the parish charge, of suicides, or of others, who are considered unfit to associate underground with the good people of the parish. These are said to "lie out of the Sanctuary."

Watching in the Church Porch on St. Mark's night.

The belief on this subject is (or rather was) that the apparitions of those who will die, or have any dangerous sickness in the course of the following year, walk into their parish church at midnight, on the 25th of April. Infants, and young children, not yet able to walk, are said to roll in on the pavement. Those who are to die remain there ; but those who are to recover return, after a longer or shorter time, in proportion to the continuance of their future sickness. Those who wish to witness these appearances are to watch in the church porch on the night in question. This vigil is said to have been actually kept, and the superstitious opinion to have prevailed in the western part of Nor-

folk within the memory of persons still living; but it is believed to be quite extinct at this time in both counties.

There is another vigil kept by young women on St. Mark's Eve, for the purpose of ascertaining their future husbands. Precisely at midnight the husband-seeker must go alone into the garden, taking with her some hemp-seed, which she is to sow, repeating at the same time the following lines :

Hemp-seed I sow ;
Hemp-seed, grow ;
He that is my true love
Come after me, and mow.

It is believed that if this be done with full faith in the efficacy of the charm, the figure of the future husband will appear, with a scythe, and in the act of mowing.

Dumb-cake.

On the same night, and for the same purpose, girls bake what is called the dumb-cake; which is made of the following ingredients :

An egg-shell-full of salt,
An egg-shell-full of wheat meal.
An egg-shell-full of barley-meal.

It must be baked before the fire, a little before twelve o'clock at night; the maker of the cake must be quite alone, must be fasting, and not a word must be spoken. At twelve o'clock exactly the sweet-heart will come in and turn the cake. The door must be left open, for a reason pretty obvious.

To sit where the Dog was hanged.

It means a succession of petty mischances. The good woman breaks her thread, drops her stitches, overturns her snuff-box, scalds her fingers with her tea-kettle ; or, if she sits down to play soberly at cribbage, trickets, or all-fours, she meets with all the modes of ill-luck attendant on any of those games. And, after sustaining a competent number of these " miseries of human life," accounts for them by exclaiming, " Surely I sit where the dog was hanged."

The Robin Red-breast.

The robin red-breast and the wren,
Are God Almighty's cock and hen ;
The martin and the swallow
Are the next two birds that follow.—*Old Adage.*

The protection afforded to the red-breast arises, probably, in a great measure from its extreme familiarity. It seems to have none of the instinctive fear of man, which is common to most of the feathered tribe. It is the gardener's and labourer's companion ; attends him at his work ; hops around his feet, and almost under his spade ; and collects and devours the insects he turns up, with the utmost confidence. It even accompanies him at his meals, and pecks up every crumb that falls, with an apparent assurance of security. In the winter, it enters our houses, and becomes as it were one of the family. The wren is almost as much an inmate of our out-houses in the

country, as our domestic poultry ; and generally builds its nest about them. The swallow that nestles in our chimnies, and the martin under our eaves, find equal protection and regard. The superstitious dread of killing or hurting any of them, still continues in full force, although it may be difficult to assign the cause from which this almost religious respect may have arisen. Mr. Addison, in the *Spectator*, attributes much of it to the old popular ballad of the Children in the Wood. It may be so with respect to the red-breast ; or it may be, that, being already favourites, they might be selected for the pious and tender office of burying the poor babes. But the words of the adage, and the kind of respect paid to these pretty birds, appear to point to some superstitious origin, which is now forgotten. Be this as it may, they still enjoy the full benefit of the prejudice in their favour ; and the martin, in particular, is believed to bring good luck to the house on which it builds its nest : in which it has no enemy but the sparrow, an equally familiar, but always unwelcome, visitor.

Gifts on the Nails.

Small white specks on the nails are sure indications that those who are so fortunate as to have them, will in some way or other be the better for them ; though perhaps not literally in the manner implied by the name. And some sagacious old women are very shrewd in explaining, from their number, size, position, &c. in what manner it will be ; and particularly in ac-

counting for anything of the kind which has really happened.

There is a superstition also respecting cutting the nails, and some days are considered more lucky for this operation than others. To cut them on a Tuesday is thought particularly auspicious. Indeed, if we are to believe an old rhyming saw on this subject, every day of the week is endowed with its several and peculiar virtue, if the nails are invariably cut on that day, and no other. The lines are as follow :

Cut them on Monday, you cut them for health ;
Cut them on Tuesday, you cut them for wealth ;
Cut them on Wednesday, you cut them for news ;
Cut them on Thursday, a new pair of shoes ;
Cut them on Friday, you cut them for sorrow ;
Cut them on Saturday, see your true-love to-morrow.
Cut them on Sunday, the devil will be with you all
the week.

Ghosts.

We are distinguished by no particular superstition of this kind which is not common to the country in general. Wherever there is ignorance there will be credulity ; and we are not without our fair share of it, but have not probably more than others. Indeed the belief in ghosts appears to be in some measure universal ; and to be less confined to the lower orders than most other kinds of superstition. The great difference seems to be, that the higher classes " believe and tremble," but are ashamed to confess it ; whilst the simpler rustics own their belief without scruple. A large pro-

portion of our common people will readily avow their faith in apparitions in general; but it is certainly very rare to find any one who professes to have actually seen a ghost. Even in the neighbourhood of old castles, or of the ruins of religious houses, it is rather an indistinct kind of terror that prevails, than a belief of any particular spectral appearance. We frequently hear of the vision of a "white woman," that haunts a particular spot; or of "a coach drawn by horses without heads;" but nobody pretends to assign a name to the lady, or to guess at the owner of the decapitated horses. The counties of Norfolk and Suffolk (and particularly the latter) are remarkable for the great number of old gentlemen's seats, now, for the most part, degraded into farm houses. Our parishes are very small, yet almost every one has its Hall, and many have two or three, distinguished by particular names, and formerly the residence of gentry. Most of these are said to be haunted, but not by the ghost of any particular person. It is like a common rumour, which every body has heard, but of which nobody knows the origin. The only instance of the identity of a ghost fairly established, that a pretty considerable research has been able to discover, is in a village on the coast at the eastern extremity of Suffolk; where there is still an existing memorial of the perturbed spirit. A seaman, it appears, of eccentric notions, died at an early age in the parish in question. During his life, he had often told his relations, that he would not be buried in the usual way, but insisted upon being laid in the grave with his head to the east; and repeatedly assured them that, if he were buried other-

wise, he should not rest in peace. When he died, however, his family either forgot, or neglected his injunctions, and he was put into the ground in the accustomed manner. He had not been long buried, before it was rumoured in the parish, that the dead man was very unquiet; and several persons asserted, that they had seen him wandering about the church-yard. The tale, as usual, gathered strength by circulation: and at length made so much noise, that his relations were induced to have the coffin taken up, and a new grave dug, a few feet distant from the former, in which he was laid in his favourite position, with his head to the east. From this time he rested quietly, and the parish was no longer disturbed with his nocturnal wanderings. His grave is still in existence, and, with the head-stone at the east end of it, bears testimony to the caprice of the deceased, and to the folly and superstition of his relations and neighbours.

It ought perhaps to be added, that the date of this burial is before the middle of the last century; and that, although the legend is still current in the parish, the very sexton disclaims any belief in the appearance of the ghost.

Superstitious Notions.

If you bring yew into the house at Christmas, amongst the other evergreens used to dress it, you will have a death in the family before the end of the year.

It is dangerous to let blood in the dog-days.

If a servant goes to his place by day-light, he will never stay long in it.

Wherever the wind lies on Ash Wednesday, it continues during the whole of Lent.

If you set the broom in a corner, you will surely have strangers come to the house.

If you overturn a loaf of bread in the oven, you will have a death in the house.

It is very unlucky to burn green elder.

If a goose begins to sit on her eggs when the wind is in the east, she will sit five weeks before she hatches.

Never begin any piece of work on a Friday.

If the cat has a cold, it certainly goes through the family.

If you swear, you will catch no fish.

If you do not baste the goose on Michaelmas-day, you will want money all the year.

Every person must have some part at least of his dress new on Easter Sunday, or he will have no good fortune that year.

You should always burn a tooth when it is drawn; because, if a dog should find it and eat it, you would have dog's teeth come in its place.

If you eat the marrow of pork, you will go mad.

Crickets betoken good luck to the house they inhabit, and if they quit it suddenly, it is a very bad omen.

If a servant burns her clothes on her back, it is a sign that she will not leave her place.

The booming of the bittern in places which it does not usually frequent, forebodes a rise in the price of wheat.

Rooks building near a house are a sign of prosperity.

If a brake is cut across, the veins are supposed to

shew the initial of the name of the future husband or wife.

It is lucky to see the moon over the left shoulder.

A horse is believed to have the power of seeing ghosts ; this is probably derived from the account of Balaam's ass discerning the angel.

If you make your bed at bed-time, you will look fair in the morning.

If a horse gets a nail in his foot, it must be kept bright after it is taken out, or the horse will not recover from his lameness.

In dressing a wound, you must be careful that the old plaster be not burnt ; if it is, the wound will not heal. It must always be buried

Every particle of the leaves or berries of the holly, or other evergreens, with which the house was dressed at Christmas, must be removed on Candlemas Eve. If they are suffered to remain, some misfortune will certainly happen to the family.

If a person is stabbed by a thorn, and can draw it out of the flesh, he must bite the thorn, and then the wound will not fester.

You must never burn the withes (or bands) of the faggots.

The howling of dogs is a sign of ill luck.

Bees must never be bought, but obtained by barter. If they are bought they will never thrive.

Friday is either a very fine or a very wet day.

To put on your stockings inside outwards is a sign of good luck.

POPULAR SAYINGS RESPECTING THE WEATHER.

Evening red, and morning gray,
Are sure signs of a fair day.

Evening gray, and morning red,
Send the poor shepherd home wet to his bed.

On Candlemas Day, if the sun shines clear,
The shepherd had rather see his wife on the bier.

To the same effect was the old monkish rhyme :
Si sol splendescat, Mariâ purificante,
Major erit glacies post festum, quàm fuit ante.

So many fogs in March, so many frosts May.

If the robin sings in the bush,
Then the weather will be coarse ;
But if the robin sings on the barn,
Then the weather will be warm.

A mackarel sky forebodes rain.

If the cat washes her face over her ear, it is a sign
of fine weather.

When frogs in the grass appear of a bright yellowish
green, the weather will be fine ; if they are of a dark
dirty brown there will be rain.

A wet Sunday, a wet week.

A Saturday moon,
If it comes once in seven years, comes too soon.

If the new moon appears with the points of the crescent, nearly vertical, it is said "to hang dripping," and to indicate rain. If the convex part of the crescent is downwards, it is said "to lie on its back," and to forebode fine weather.

If the new moon "carries the old moon in her lap," the weather will be stormy. This was also an ancient Scottish prognostic :

"Late, late yestreen, I saw the new moon
With the auld moon in her arm."—*Percy's Ballads*.

If the rainbow comes at night,
The rain is gone quite.

Near bur, far rain.

The "bur" is the halo round the moon, and the meaning of the adage is, that when it appears near the moon there will be fine weather.

Sow in the slop,
Heavy at top.—*i. e.*

Wheat sown when the ground is wet, is most productive.

Wheat always lies best in wet sheets.

On Saturday new, on Sunday full,
Was never good, and never wooll.

When it rains with the wind in the east,
It rains for twenty-four hours at least.

When the pigeons go a benting,
Then the farmers lie lamenting.

May never goes out without a wheat-ear.

SAINTS' DAYS, SEASONS, &c.

At old Christmas the days are longer by a cock's-stride.

The grass that grows in Janiveer,
Grows no more all the year.

A green Christmas, a fat church-yard.

On Saint Valentine
All the birds of the air in couples do join.

Cut your thistles before St. John,
You will have two instead of one.

Saint Matthew
Get candlesticks new.
Saint Matthi
Lay candlesticks by.

First comes David, then comes Chad,
Then comes Winnold, as if he mere mad.

Saint Andrew the King,
Three weeks and three days before Christmas
comes in.

On Holy-Rood Day the Devil goes a nutting.

OLD CUSTOMS, OLD STORIES, &c.

Ten-pounding.

A custom exists amongst harvest-men in Suffolk, which is called "Ten-pounding." In most reaps there is a set of rules agreed upon amongst the reapers before harvest, by which they are to be governed during its continuance. The object of these rules is usually to prevent or punish loss of time by laziness, drunkenness, &c.; and to correct swearing, lying, or quarrelling amongst themselves; or any other kind of misbehaviour which might slacken the exertions, or break the harmony of the reap. One of the modes of punishment directed by these rules is called "Ten-pounding." and it is executed in the following manner: Upon a breach of any of the rules, a sort of drum-head court-martial is held upon the delinquent; and if he is found guilty he is instantly seized, and thrown down flat on his back. Some of the party keep his head down, and confine his arms; whilst others turn up his legs in the air, so as to exhibit his posteriors. The person who is to inflict the punishment then takes a shoe, and with the heel of it (studded as it usually is with hob-nails), gives him the prescribed number of blows upon his breech, according to the sentence. The rest of the party sit by, with their hats off, to see that the executioner does his duty; and if he fails in this, he undergoes the same punishment. It sometimes happens, that, from the prevailing use of highlows, a shoe is not to be found amongst the company. In this case, the hardest and heaviest hand of the reap is selected for

the instrument of correction ; and, when it is laid on with hearty good will, it is not inferior to the shoe. The origin of the term "ten-pounding" is not known ; but it has nothing to do with the number of blows inflicted.

Hunting Squirrels on Christmas Day.

In many parts of the country, particularly where there is much wood, the custom still prevails of hunting squirrels on this day. Why this pretty harmless animal should be selected for this barbarous diversion, or why this particular festival is chosen for the "*grande chasse*," does not appear to be known. But on a Christmas morning, half the idle fellows and boys in a parish assemble in any wood, or plantation, where squirrels are known to harbour ; and having started their game, pursue it with sticks and stones from tree to tree, hallooing and shouting with all their might, till the squirrel is killed. It is a cruel sport, and is very properly discountenanced, and falling into disuse : but on a fine morning the shouts of the hunters echoing through the woods, with occasional bursts of laughter and rustic merriment, have a very lively and exhilarating effect. From the general discouragement shewn to this sport, probably comes the common Saying, " Hunt squirrels, and make no noise."

Walsingham Way.

In many, or in most parts of the county of Norfolk, at considerable distances from Walsingham, the roads

leading towards it were called by this name ; as we now speak of the London road at any distance from the capital. Indeed the pilgrimage to that celebrated shrine was as common as a journey to London in these days of general and easy intercourse. This Way has now, for the most part, been swallowed up by the modern multitude of turnpike roads and inclosures, and has lost its ancient name. In some instances, however, it still exists, at least in the recollection of the old inhabitants. The course of these " Ways " was marked out by stone crosses ; many of which, or rather their remains, are yet to be seen.

The road leading to the once famous city of Dunwich, in Suffolk, was distinguished by a similar name ; and is often mentioned in old maps and surveys as " Dunwich Way."

Pot-Day.

Within the memory of many persons now living, it was the custom, amongst even very substantial farmers, to cook only three times a week, of which Sunday was always one. These days of periodical cookery were called " Pot-days ;" and, as their friends were usually acquainted with them, a person intending to go to the house uninvited would calculate accordingly, and say, " I will go on such a day, for I know that is Pot-day." This frugal practice is, however, now very nearly obsolete.

Customary Viands for particular Days.

On certain days in the year it was the custom of old times to prepare a particular kind of food, which was considered peculiar to that day. Some of these customs are still in use amongst us. On Michaelmas Day, for instance, every person, who can afford it, has a roast goose for dinner. Christmas is a season of festivity in all parts of the kingdom; but in Suffolk, and particularly in High Suffolk, that festival is begun in a way which is, perhaps, not general in other parts. On the morning of Christmas Day, in many farm-houses, a large quantity of frumenty is prepared, and the labourers on the farm, with their wives and children, are invited to breakfast upon it. It is considered a great treat, and is really a most nourishing and delicious food. In Norfolk, ale or mead, with a toast and nutmeg, is appropriated to Christmas Eve. In Suffolk, hot elderberry wine, with spice, is the usual regale for holiday friends. On Shrove Tuesday, pan-cakes are indispensable; but the "fat hen" is now never threshed; nor, indeed, is there any tradition of that barbarous sport having been practised in these counties for many years. On Easter Sunday our Norfolk brethren provide a tansey pudding; and on Whit Sunday cheese-cakes. In Suffolk we have no particular dish at Easter; but Whit Sunday is always celebrated with baked custards, and, if possible, with gooseberry pies; and these delicacies are standing dishes during the whole of Whitsuntide.

Valentine's Day.

On this day it is the custom for children to "catch" each other (as it is called) for Valentines; and if in the family, or amongst their relations or friends, there are elderly persons who are likely to be liberal, great care is taken to "catch" them. The mode of catching is, by saying "Good mórrow, Valentine:" and if they can repeat this before they are spoken to, they are rewarded with a small present. It must be done, however, before sun-rise; otherwise, instead of a reward, they are told "You are sun-burnt," and are sent back with disgrace.

Hollow-meat.

Before the improved system of husbandry was introduced into Norfolk, there were many warrens, and the country was very much over-run with rabbits. In the light-land farms, these formed a considerable part of the diet of the farming servants, and were known by the name of "hollow-meat." And, as the servants in Scotland are said to have stipulated against salmon, so it was the practice here, when a servant let himself to a farmer, to make a proviso that he should be fed upon "hollow-meat" only a certain number of days in the week.

Plants of Omen.

The dandelion (*Leontodon Taraxacum*) is one of these. When its seeds are ripened they stand above

the head of the plant in a globular form, with a feathery tuft at the end of each seed, and then are easily detached. The flower-stalk must be plucked carefully, so as not to injure the globe of seeds, and you are then to blow off the seeds with your breath. So many puffs as are required to blow every seed clean off, so many years it will be before you are married.

Another plant of omen is the yarrow (*Achillæa millefolium*), called by us yarroway. The mode of divination is this: you must take one of the serrated leaves of the plant, and with it tickle the inside of the nostrils, repeating at the same time the following lines:

“Yarroway, yarroway, bear a white blow,
If my love love me, my nose will bleed now.”

If the blood follows this charm, success in your courtship is held to be certain.

The mode of discovering the sweet-heart, by laying a peascod with nine peas in it over the door, is common to us with most other parts of the country.

Suffolk Cheese.

The following lines on Suffolk cheese, which are very current in the county, show at least that we are not irritable on the subject. The cheese speaks:

Those that made me were uncivil,
For they made me harder than the d—l.
Knives won't cut me; fire won't sweat me;
Dogs bark at me, but can't eat me.

Pronunciation of the word "Mayor."

It has been noticed in the second Essay, that the word mayor was formerly pronounced "mahr"; but that by modern refinement it is now smoothed down to "mare"; and that Norwich and Lynn are both governed by worshipful personages under that name. It should seem that the borough of Thetford is in the same predicament, and has been so for a length of time which is scarcely consistent with the word modern. Fifty years ago, a story was current in Norfolk, which proves that the mayor of that town was then called the "mare." The story is as follows. A man got drunk at Thetford market, and, on his return home, fell from his horse; which strayed into a field of barley belonging to the mayor, and was arrested in the morning, damage-feasant. He was of course sent to the pound, and the master was called upon to pay for the damage committed; but he, having spent all his money, entreated the mayor to take his note of hand for the sum. This was at length agreed to: and the drunken owner, knowing (as the story goes) that the mayor could not read writing, gave the following promissory note.

Lo! here is a case, and a case to be pitied;
The master got drunk, and the horse was committed.
Horse, horse, take thou no care,
For thou'lt be a horse when * *'s no *mare*.

May Day.

It was an old custom in Suffolk, in most farm-houses, that any servant, who could bring in a branch of hawthorn in full blossom on the first of May, was entitled to a dish of cream for breakfast. This custom is now disused, not so much from the reluctance of the masters to give the reward, as from the inability of the servants to find the white-thorn in flower. The alteration of the style will go some way to account for it, but scarcely far enough. It very seldom happens that any blossoms are seen open even on old May day.

Salt.

The practice of setting a plate of salt on the breast of a corpse prevails generally in East Anglia, as it is said to do in Scotland ; but tradition furnishes no account of the origin of the custom.

PROVERBIAL, OR COMMON SAYINGS, &c.

In Ray's and Fuller's collection of proverbs, &c. there are many which are still current in East Anglia. Indeed, nearly three hundred had been marked which are still in common and daily use amongst us ; but, as they are already upon record, it was not thought ne-

cessary to swell the catalogue by reprinting them. The few which have escaped the research of those industrious collectors, or which more probably are of later manufacture, are given below. Whether they deserved insertion, or had better have been left in their original obscurity, the reader must judge.

Proverbs, &c.

"If the hen does not prate, she will not lay."—*i. e.* Scolding wives make the best housewives.

"If it won't pudding, it will froize."—*i. e.* If it won't do for one thing, it will for another.

"His religion is copyhold, and he has not taken it up."—This is said of one who never goes to any place of worship.

"For want of company,
Welcome trumpery."

"A wheel-wright's dog is a carpenter's uncle."—*i. e.* A bad wheelwright makes a good carpenter.

"You must do as they do at Hoo,

What you can't do in one day, you must do in two."

"He is in his own clothes."—This is a term of defiance. Let him do as he pleases; I fear him not.

"A lie made out of the whole stuff."—*i. e.* Without any foundation.

"I'll give him a kick for a culp."—*i. e.* A Rowland for an Oliver.

"Laurence has got hold of him."—*i. e.* He is lazy.

"Lazy Laurence" was one of the alliterative personifications, which our ancestors were so fond of.

"Hitty-missy, as the blind man shot the crow."—*i.e.* accidentally.

"It is a poor dog, that does not know 'come out'."—*i.e.* He is foolish, who does not know when to desist.

"Every thing has an end, and a pudding has two."

In explanation of this, it must be observed that our Suffolk puddings are not round, but long; they are sometimes called leg-puddings, from their resemblance to the human leg. Major Moore, in his entertaining book, laments the disuse of the long pudding; which, as he justly remarks, is vastly superior to the round one. It may be some consolation to him to be informed, that in High Suffolk the poke-pudding is still held in high esteem, and is by no means superseded by its rival.

"His word is as good as his bond."—This is said ironically, when both are worthless.

"Nothing turns sourer than milk."—*i.e.* A mild, good-humoured man is most determined, when he is thoroughly provoked.

"There is no fence against a flail."—*i.e.* You cannot guard against the attacks of a person who utters blunt, unwelcome truths, without any restraint from good manners.

"She looked as if butter would not melt in her mouth, but cheese would not have choked her."

"You must eat another yard of pudding first."—*i.e.* You must wait till you grow older.

"No cousin in London, no cousin at Stonham."

The origin of this is said to have been, that an inhabitant of the village of Stonham in Suffolk had often re-

ceived with great hospitality a London cousin in repeated visits. Some chance called the farmer to London, when he went instantly to his friend's house, fully expecting to make it his home during his stay in town. He was received, however, with cold civility, and barely asked to dinner. Some time after this, the Londoner came again into the country, and entered the house with the cordial salutation of "Ah, my dear cousin," but was instantly repulsed with the answer, "No cousin in London, no cousin at Stonham," and fairly turned out of doors. The story soon got wind, and the answer became proverbial.

"You must hunt squirrels, and make no noise."—*i. e.* If you wish to succeed in an inquiry, you must go quietly about it.

"It is a good thing to eat your brown bread first."—*i. e.* If you are unfortunate in the early part of life, you may hope for better success in future.

"Deal with an honest man, as you would with a rogue."—*i. e.* Do not omit all necessary precautions in business, because a man has the character of being honest.

"The dog that fetches will carry."—*i. e.* A tale-bearer will tell tales *of* you, as well as *to* you.

"I was not born in a wood to be scared by an owl."—*i. e.* I am not so easily frightened as you may imagine.

"Sorrow rode in my cart."—It means to express, I did ill, but I had reason to repent it afterwards.

"His lies are latticed lies, and you may see through them."

"Little knocks

Rive great blocks."

i. e. Steady perseverance, with little means, gets through great difficulties.

"His eyes draw straws."—*i. e.* He is sleepy. When a person's eyes are nearly closed, he appears to see small rays of light, like straws.

"I will come, when the cuckoo has pecked up the dirt."—*i. e.* In the spring.

"Nip a nettle hard, and it will not sting you."—*i. e.* Strong and decided measures prevail best with troublesome people.

"What's her's is mine; what's mine is my own, quoth the husband."

"You had better be drunk, than drowned."—*i. e.* It is better to exceed in wine now and then, than to be constantly drinking largely of weak liquors.

"He is a crust of the law; he will never know a crumb of it."

"Your conscience is made of stretching leather."

"There is more of Sampson than of Solomon in him."—*i. e.* Great bodily strength, but little sense.

"He is a Walberswick whisperer; you may hear him over to Southwold."—Walberswick and Southwold are two sea-port towns in Suffolk, situated on opposite sides of the mouth of the river Blyth, and distant nearly a mile from each other. It is of course intended to describe an audible whisperer.

"You may know a carpenter by his chips."—This is usually applied to great eaters, who leave many bones on their plate.

"Elbow-grease gives the best polish."—*i. e.* Hard rubbing makes furniture look brighter; generally, industry is the surest road to success.

"The miller's boy said so."—*i. e.* It was matter of common report.

"She is fond of gape-seed."—*i. e.* Of staring at every thing that passes.

"To laugh like Robin Good-fellow."—*i. e.* A long, loud, hearty, horse-laugh. Thus the memory of the merry goblin still lives amongst us. But though his mirth be remembered, his drudgery is forgotten. His cream-bowl is never set; nor are any traces of the "lubber fiend" to be found on the kitchen hearth. He is even forgotten in the nursery.

"He has got his jag."—*i. e.* Not so much drink as he could have swallowed, but as much as he can fairly carry.

"To have the hands of one."—*i. e.* To have the advantage of him.

"There are more that know Tom Fool, than Tom Fool knows."—*i. e.* Persons in public situations are known by many whom they are unacquainted with.

"To go down the red lane."—*i. e.* to be swallowed.

"The beard will pay for the shaving."—This is used when a person is paid for his labour by taking part, or the whole, of that which he is employed about; as cutting bushes, &c. In general it means, the work will produce enough to pay itself.

"There is a good steward abroad, when there is a wind-frost."—*i. e.* You have no occasion to look to your labourers, they must work to keep themselves warm.

"There is a deal of difference between go and gow."—*i. e.* between ordering a person to do a thing, and going with him to see him do it, or doing it with him.

"God's lambs will play."—An apology for riotous youth: probably it was originally a sneer at some unlucky Puritan, who had been detected in some indiscretion.

"I gave it him, as it came from mill."—*i. e.* undressed! the bran and flour mixed together. It means I spoke my mind plainly, and without dressing it up.

"If the cat's away,

The mice will play."

i. e. If the master is out of the way, servants will be idle.

"To make one eat humble pie."—*i. e.* To make him lower his tone, and be submissive. It may possibly be derived from the "*umbles*" of the deer, which were the perquisite of the huntsman; and if so, it should be written *umble-pie*, the food of inferiors.

"There's no hoe in them."—*i. e.* You cannot stop them; they don't know when to leave off. "They fight without hoe." Lord Berners's Froissart.

"You can't make a silk purse of a sow's ear."—*i. e.* You cannot make a handsome thing out of base materials. It is frequently applied to a stupid fellow, upon whom education is thrown away.

"It will take the gilding off the gingerbread."—*i. e.* It will reduce his profits; he will make little of it.

"To stand holes."—*i. e.* To continue as you are; probably borrowed from cribbage, or fair play, or some such game.

"Within a hog's gape."—*i. e.* very near; within a little.

"To give one the seal of the day."—*i. e.* To be commonly civil to him, but nothing more.

"He may well be musical, for he walks upon German flutes."—This is often applied to a spindle-shanked musician.

"He has swallowed shame, and drank after it."—*i. e.* He has no sense of shame left.

"He does the devil's work for nothing."—This is usually said of a common swearer.

"She that's fair, and fair would be,
Must wash herself with sumitory."

"The man was hanged, that left his liquor."—This is used as a persuasive to drink, and is said to be derived from the following circumstance. It was the custom to present a cup of wine to criminals in their way to the gallows; one poor fellow who was going to execution refused to stop and drink it. He went on, and was hanged; but just after he was turned off came a reprieve, which would have been in time to save his life, if "he had not left his liquor,"

"To lay the stool's foot in water."—To make preparation for company. It is derived from the custom of washing brick floors; an operation always performed on the very day company is expected, by many of our "tidy" housewives, with whom wet and clean are synonymous.

"You will catch more flies with a spoonful of honey, than with a gallon of vinegar."—*i. e.* Kind language prevails more than sharp reproofs.

"Little fish are sweet."—It means small gifts are always acceptable.

"A lame tongue gets nothing."

"Go to Bungay, to get new bottomed."—The explanation given of this common saying is, that people broke at Beccles, and, when the navigation was opened and improved, removed to Bungay, and throve there. But the saying is probably much older than the navigation. Certainly there are few market towns in which such fortunes have been acquired.

"As bad as marrying the d—l's daughter, and living with the old folks."—This strange saying is commonly applied to a person who has made unpromising connections in marriage.

"I made my obedience to him, but he would neither speak nor grunt."—This is said when a superior passes, without returning your civility; and on the same occasion another very common expression is, "A hog would have grunted."

"A ground sweat cures all disorders."—*i. e.* In the grave all complaints cease from troubling.

"Give him that which costs you nothing."—*i. e.* civility.

"He does not know great A from the gable end of a house."

"He laughs on the wrong side of his face."—*i. e.* He affects a laugh when he is disposed to cry.

"It is better to wear up with work, than with rust."

"He was meant for a gentleman, but was spoilt in the making."

"He lies bare of a suit."—*i. e.* He has no money.

"He will make a tight old man."—This is said of a lazy fellow, who does not hurt himself with work.

"He has laid a stone at my door."—*i. e.* by way of memorandum not to knock at it again : in the modern cant phrase, "He has *cut* me."

"He has made a hole in his manners."—This expression is much like Cotgrave's "*casse maurs*."

THE END.

ERRATA.

- Page 52, line 7, *for placed read played.*
— 192, — 11, *for parrunt read pariunt.*
— 258, — 11, *for succulus read sacculus.*
— 317, — 4, *for ballire read bullire.*

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